RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

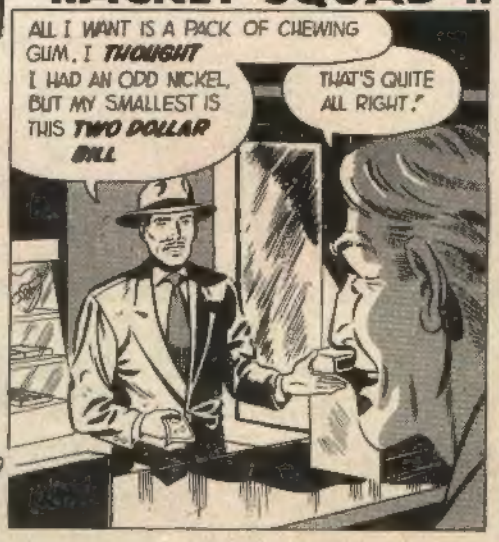
A LAW AND ORDER PUBLICATION

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

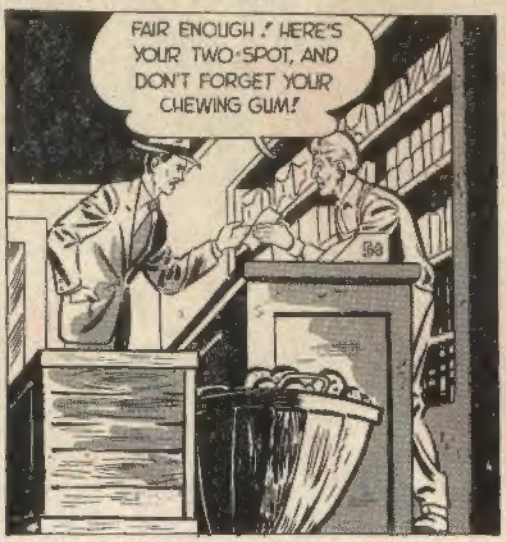
The "TWO BUCK HYPE"

WATCH OUT FOR THIS SHORT CHANGE GYP

R. GIORDANO


ALL I WANT IS A PACK OF CHEWING GUM. I *THOUGHT* I HAD AN ODD NICKEL, BUT MY SMALLEST IS THIS *TWO DOLLAR BILL*
THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT!

HERE'S THE NICKEL I WAS SURE I HAD! I'LL ADD IT TO THE CHANGE AND YOU CAN GIVE ME A DOLLAR BILL FOR IT.
FINE! I CAN ALWAYS USE CHANGE. HERE'S A DOLLAR.



FAIR ENOUGH... BUT ONLY FOR THE "HYPE ARTIST" AS THIS BREED OF CHEATERS CALL THEMSELVES... STUDY IT CAREFULLY AND YOU'LL SEE THAT THE HYPE MAN PUT ONE DOLLAR IN HIS POCKET, BEFORE HE "FOUND" THE NICKEL THERE... THE STOREKEEPER BROUGHT BACK A DOLLAR BILL OF HIS OWN WHEN HE HANDED OVER THE TWO-SPOT AT THE FINISH!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION published bi-monthly by Law and Order Magazines, Inc. Executive Offices and Office of Publication, Charlton Building, Derby, Conn. Application for entry as Second Class Matter pending at Post Office at Derby, Conn. Price per copy 10c. Subscription 60c yearly. Vol. 1, No. 2, July-Aug. 1952. Copyright 1952 by Law and Order Magazines, Inc. Alfred V. Fago and Walter Gibson, Editors. Printed in the U. S. A.

DORIS KING WAS A "LUCKY LADY" WHO PLANNED

A TRIP TO HOLLYWOOD

ONLY TO LEARN THAT SHE WAS BEING TAKEN BY A PAIR OF RACKETEERS!

COME ON, HUGH. LET'S TALK TO THAT LUCKY LADY WHILE SHE'S STILL STAGE-STRUCK!

NOW YOU'RE TALKING, PAUL. THAT'S WHEN THEY REALLY FALL FOR YOUR SILVER-TONGUED SPIEL!

MONROE HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS DORIS KING IN LUCKY LADY

SPRING IS IN THE AIR! WITH IT COME HIGH SCHOOL PLAYS, GRADUATIONS, DREAMS OF THE FUTURE! THAT'S WHEN THE FISH START BITING AND THE **LEECHES** GET BUSY TOO! WHAT COULD BE MORE GLAMOROUS THAN THE PROSPECT OF BECOMING A HOLLYWOOD MOVIE STAR WITHIN THE SPAN OF A SUMMER VACATION? THAT WAS WHAT PAUL DE ROCHE AND HUGH CRAYLE BANKED ON IN THEIR RACKET!

DORIS, YOU WERE WONDERFUL!

OH, JACK... IT WAS **ALL** BECAUSE YOU WROTE SUCH A WONDERFUL PLAY!

TWO GENTLEMEN TO SEE YOU, MISS.

A-Z STUDIOS

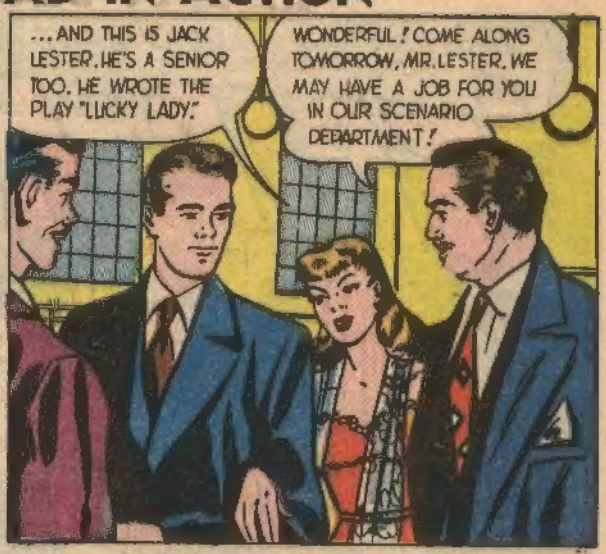
HOLLYWOOD, CAL.

PAR-ON BOOKS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

FROM HOLLYWOOD! OH, JACK, I MUST SEE THEM RIGHT AWAY! HERE, HOLD THESE FLOWERS!

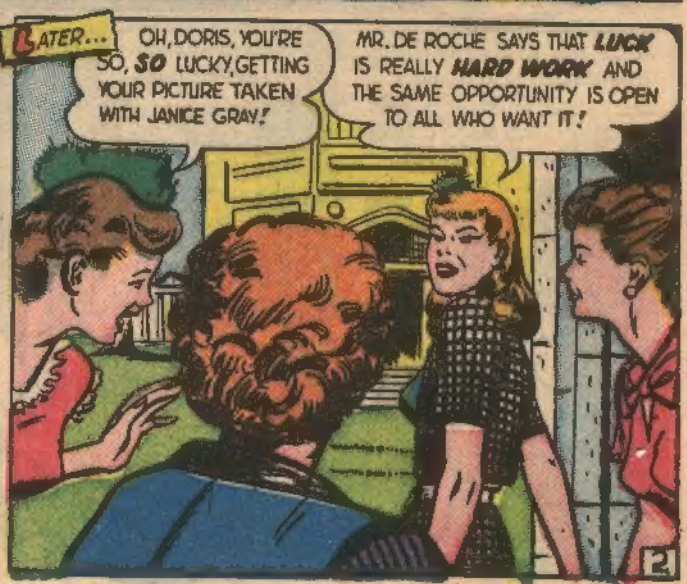
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

YES, MISS KING, HOLLYWOOD NEEDS YOUNG DRAMATIC TALENT! SEE ME AT THE HOTEL SAVILLE TOMORROW AND WE'LL DISCUSS AN IMMEDIATE CONTRACT... PROVIDED OF COURSE THAT YOU PASS THE SCREEN TEST.
SHE CAN'T MISS, CHIEF!


...AND THIS IS JACK LESTER. HE'S A SENIOR TOO. HE WROTE THE PLAY "LUCKY LADY."
WONDERFUL! COME ALONG TOMORROW, MR. LESTER. WE MAY HAVE A JOB FOR YOU IN OUR SCENARIO DEPARTMENT!

THE NEXT DAY...
OH, JACK, THAT'S JANICE GRAY... THE MOVIE STAR! SHE MUST BE GOING UP TO SEE MR. DE ROCHE TOO!
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU REALLY FOUND YOUR CAREER, DORIS!
HOTEL SAVILLE
NEWSPAPERS
MAGAZINES
CIGARETTES

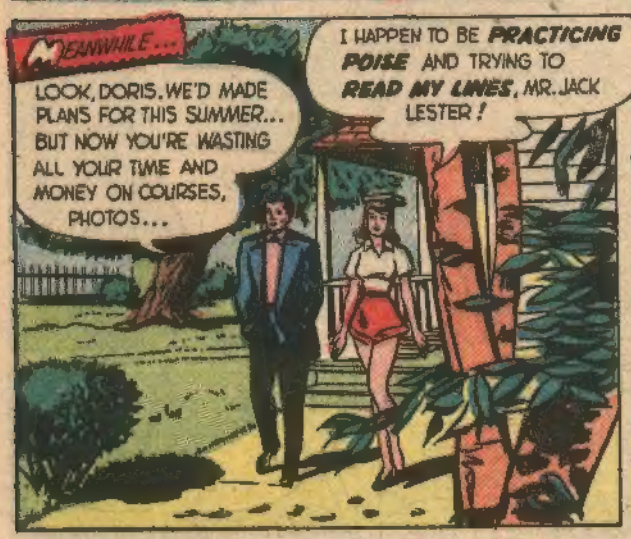
THIS IS THE CONTRACT, DORIS, BUT IN ALL FAIRNESS, YOU SHOULD NOT SIGN IT UNTIL YOU HAVE COMPLETED A BASIC COURSE IN SCREEN ACTING. WE'VE BROUGHT JANICE GRAY FROM HOLLYWOOD ESPECIALLY TO DEVELOP STARLETS LIKE YOU.

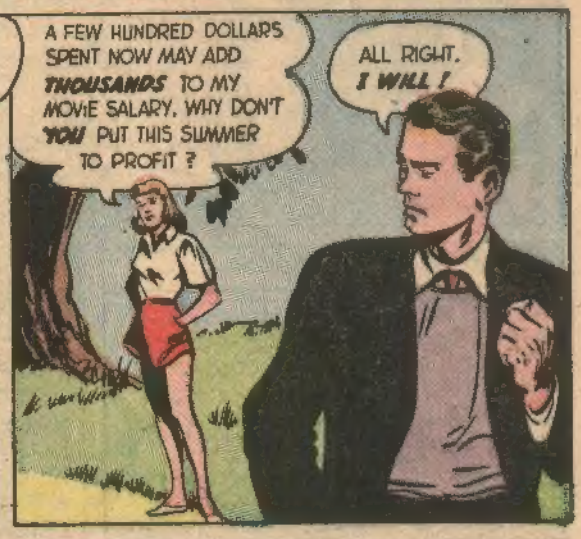

LATER...
OH, DORIS, YOU'RE SO, SO LUCKY, GETTING YOUR PICTURE TAKEN WITH JANICE GRAY!
MR. DE ROCHE SAYS THAT LUCK IS REALLY HARD WORK AND THE SAME OPPORTUNITY IS OPEN TO ALL WHO WANT IT!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

ONE WEEK LATER...
BOY! WE'VE HAD FIFTY APPLICANTS FOR SUMMER CLASSES SINCE WE USED DORIS KING FOR THE COME-ON NOW WE CAN HIRE THE HOTEL BALL-ROOM.
AT ONLY TEN BUCKS EACH, WHERE'S THE PROFIT?
RIGHT HERE, SISTER!

THEY PAY FOR FILM USED IN SCREEN TESTS AND DRAMATIC SCENES, BUT ALL WE USE IS AN EMPTY CAMERA!
AND I'VE MADE PERCENTAGE DEALS WITH BEAUTY SHOPS, COSTUME STORES AND ALL THE REST. THE NEXT DODGE IS A CONTEST!


MEANWHILE...
LOOK, DORIS, WE'D MADE PLANS FOR THIS SUMMER... BUT NOW YOU'RE WASTING ALL YOUR TIME AND MONEY ON COURSES, PHOTOS...
I HAPPEN TO BE PRACTICING POISE AND TRYING TO READ MY LINES, MR. JACK LESTER!


A FEW HUNDRED DOLLARS SPENT NOW MAY ADD THOUSANDS TO MY MOVIE SALARY. WHY DON'T YOU PUT THIS SUMMER TO PROFIT?
ALL RIGHT. I WILL!

I WISH I'D NEVER BROUGHT THAT PICTURE IN HERE! I THINK THE WHOLE DEAL IS A RACKET!
I DOUBT THAT YOU CAN PROVE IT, BUT I LIKE YOUR SPIRIT. I'LL GIVE YOU A JOB AS A REPORTER FOR THE SUMMER.

SO YOU'RE WORKING FOR THE REGISTER NOW! HOW ABOUT A FEATURE STORY ON THE PROGRESS WE'RE MAKING WITH OUR MOVIE SCHOOL?
WHY... WHY, YES, I GUESS IT WOULD MAKE A GOOD STORY, MR. DE ROCHE.

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

ALL THAT PROSPERITY ON OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY SPIKED JACK'S SUSPICION BUT GOOD! LIKE DORIS, HE FELL FOR THE GAME AND EVEN SOLD THE DOUBTING EDITOR!

A FULL PAGE STORY RATING US TRIPLE-A! NOW WE CAN SELL BANQUET TICKETS AT TEN DOLLARS A THROW. ALL THEIR RELATIVES WILL BUY THEM!
AND WE CAN SOAK THE STUDENTS FOR A TWO-WEEKS GRADUATE COURSE, WITH SOME PHONEY OSCARS FOR THE PRIZES!

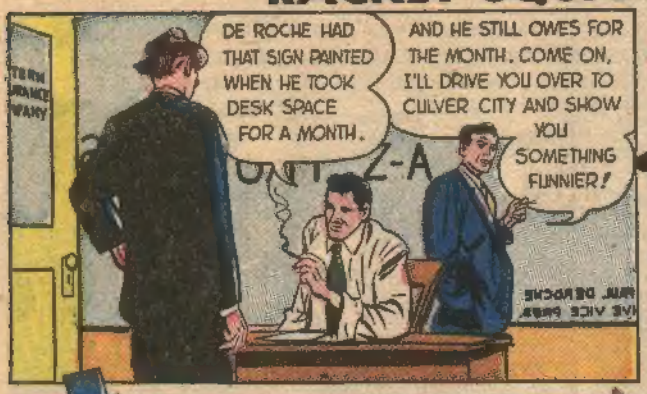
YES, A-Z HAS AN OFFICE ON SUNSET BOULEVARD, A STUDIO IN CULVER CITY AND THEY'RE BRINGING IN A DOZEN STARS TO JUDGE THEIR GRAND CONTEST!
A GOOD STORY! WRITE IT!

LATER...
YOUR STORY DID ALL THIS! I'M SO HAPPY, JACK!
SO AM I! THE EDITOR CAN'T GET OUT TO ARIZONA FOR THE VETERAN'S CONVENTION, SO HE'S LETTING ME COVER IT. BUT I'LL BE BACK IN TIME FOR THE CONTEST BANQUET!
A-Z- STUDIO AWARDS FOR GRAND STARLET CONTEST....
BANQUET TICKETS $10.
OSCARS TO BE REWARD-

AND AS THE GREAT DAY NEARED...
IT'S COST ME A HUNDRED DOLLARS SO FAR, BUT IT'S WORTH EVERY PENNY!
MY PARENTS HAVE GIVEN ME THE MONEY I WAS GOING TO USE FOR COLLEGE, SO I CAN HAVE IT IN HOLLYWOOD!

WHILE IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA...
SURE, YOU'VE GOT TIME TO FLY TO LOS ANGELES AND CATCH THE EASTBOUND SKYLINER, WITH A COUPLE OF HOURS TO SPARE!
THAT'S ALL I WANT TO KNOW!
AIRLINE TICKETS
FLY

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION


DE ROCHE HAD THAT SIGN PAINTED WHEN HE TOOK DESK SPACE FOR A MONTH.
AND HE STILL OWES FOR THE MONTH. COME ON, I'LL DRIVE YOU OVER TO CULVER CITY AND SHOW YOU SOMETHING FUNNIER!

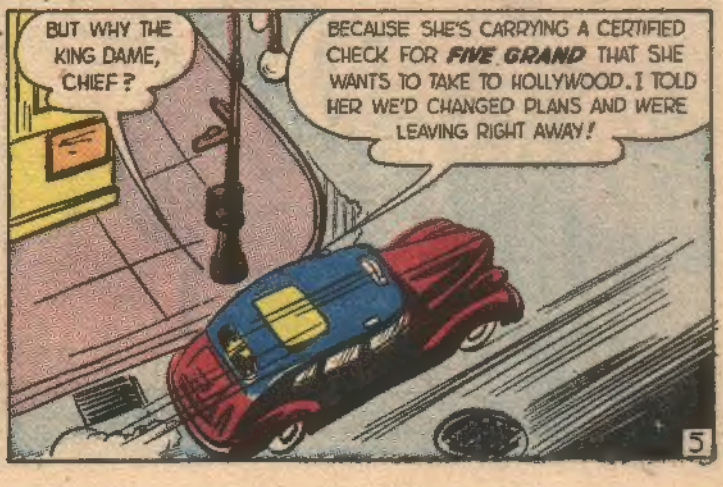
JACK LESTER HAD TIME TO SEND A TELEGRAM BEFORE LEAVING LOS ANGELES AND IT CARRIED ONE DETAIL THAT ENABLED THE LAW TO MOVE.

THIS WIRE MAKES THE A-Z OUTFIT SOUND PLENTY PHONEY, INSPECTOR, BUT IT DOESN'T PROVE THEIR STAR-LET CONTEST IS A FAKE. HOW CAN WE MOVE?
EASILY, STEVE.

DE ROCHE PUT THAT SIGN ON THIS PARKING AREA RIGHT BEHIND THE G-M-G MAIN LOT!
GET ME BACK TO THE AIR-PORT. I'VE GOT TO CATCH MY PLANE!
CULVER CITY STUDIO

WITH A DOZEN HOLLYWOOD NAME STARS SCHEDULED AS JUDGES, THAT BANQUET WILL NEED POLICE PROTECTION OR IT MIGHT BE MOBBED..
COME ON, BOYS! WE'RE GOING TO PROTECT SOME BIG NAMES THAT WON'T SHOW UP!

SOON AFTER...
CHIEF, THE PLACE IS CRAWLING WITH COPS. WE'VE GOT TO LAM...
HOP IN THIS CAB. WE'RE GOING OUT TO THE AIRPORT. DORIS KING IS MEETING US THERE.


BUT WHY THE KING DAME, CHIEF?
BECAUSE SHE'S CARRYING A CERTIFIED CHECK FOR FIVE GRAND THAT SHE WANTS TO TAKE TO HOLLYWOOD. I TOLD HER WE'D CHANGED PLANS AND WERE LEAVING RIGHT AWAY!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

AT THE AIRPORT...
THREE TICKETS TO L.A...
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE CONTEST, MR. DE ROCHE?
JANICE GRAY AND THE OTHER STARS WILL HANDLE IT. HOLLYWOOD NEEDS YOU RIGHT AWAY. THAT CHECK, DORIS...YOU'D BETTER LET ME TAKE CARE OF IT FOR YOU.
WELL, WELL! BACK JUST IN TIME TO FIND YOU PULLING OUT. WHAT'S THE HURRY, DE ROCHE?
JACK... DON'T!
AND HERE'S A KEEPSAKE FOR YOU TOO, CRAYLE!
ARE YOU INSANE, JACK...OR JUST BLIND WITH JEALOUSY?
WE GOT YOUR WIRE, LESTER, AND TAGGED THOSE CROOKS HERE, BUT YOU GOT FIRST CRACK!
AND THEY PROVED THEMSELVES PHONIES BY TRYING TO CLEAR TOWN!
COME ALONG, MISS LONE STAR!
BUT I WAS JUST READING TELEGRAMS FROM THE GUESTS WHO COULDN'T COME.
BRING THEM ALONG. DE ROCHE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR THEM. HE WROTE THEM.
WITH THEIR SCHOOL, THE UNUSED FILM, COMMISSIONS AND BANQUET TICKETS, THESE RACKETEERS HAD SHOWN A $5000 PROFIT WHICH THEY EXPECTED TO DOUBLE WHEN THEY CASHED DORIS' CHECK. MOST OF THE MONEY WAS PAID BACK TO THE PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN DUPED, BUT LIKE SO MANY SWINDLERS THEY OVERPLAYED THEIR GAME... AND THAT WAS THEIR UNDOING!
J. J. O'Malley
INSPECTOR
THE END

ARE YOU WITH IT!

"THIS IS THE STORY OF TOM CRAIG, A LIKEABLE YOUNG CHAP WHO OVERNIGHT WAS TRANSFORMED FROM A "CHUMP" INTO A "STICK" BUT NEVER DID BECOME A "GRIFTER"... FOR REASONS THAT HIS STORY WILL EXPLAIN... IT BEGAN THE NIGHT WHEN THE CARNIVAL CAME TO TOWN AND TOM, TO HIS SURPRISE, BEGAN WINNING MONEY ON THE "HIGH STRIKER"...

J. J. O'malley

RING!

LOOK AT THAT BOY RING THE BELL! HERE YOU ARE YOUNG FELLOW, ANOTHER FIVE BUCKS YOU'VE WON!

DON'T LET THAT KID BEAT YOU, HERBY! WHY, HE'S RUNG THE BELL THREE TIMES AND YOU HAVEN'T HIT IT ONCE!

I'LL SHOW HIM!

SNAKE CHARMER

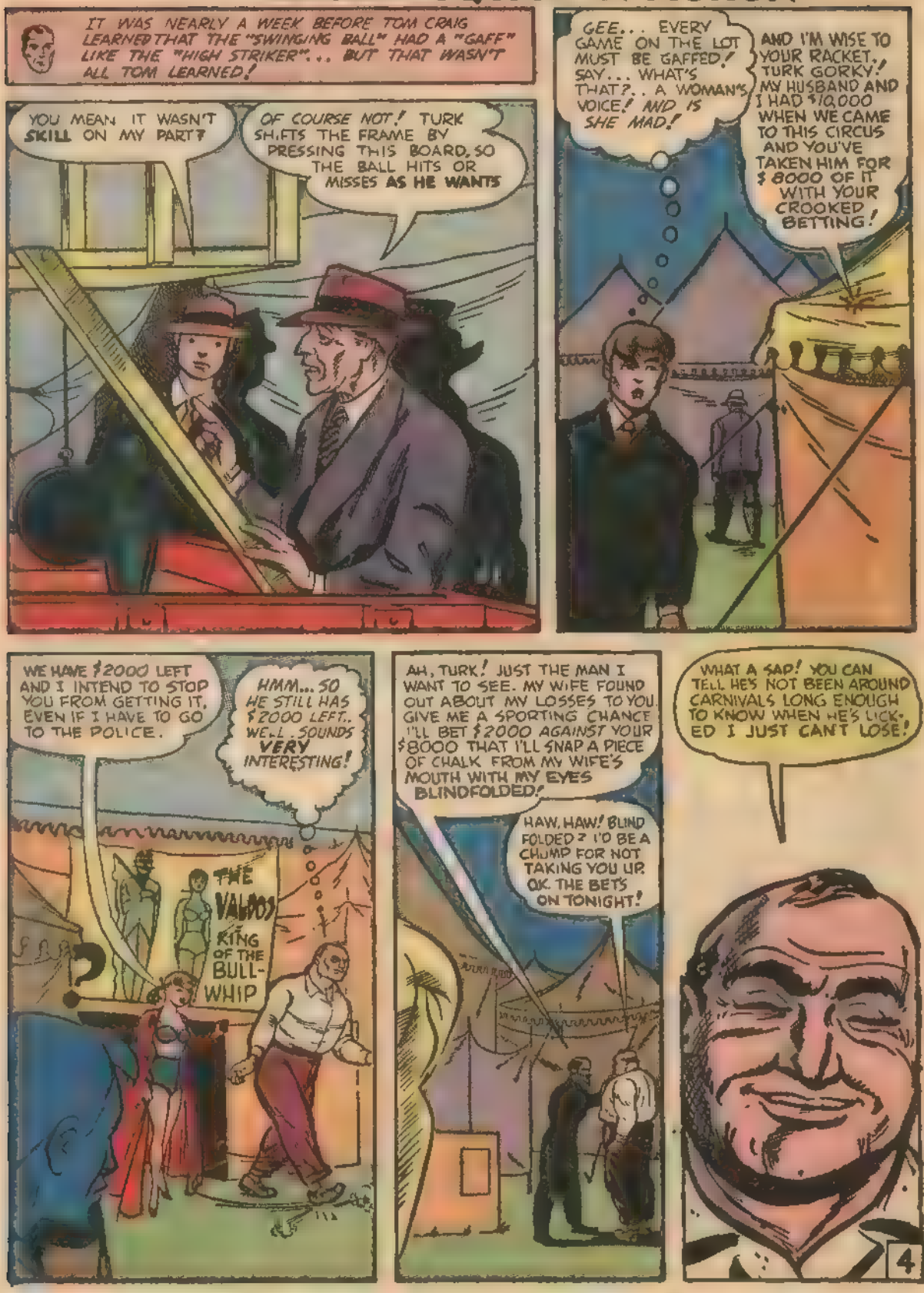
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

YOU LET THE KID PUT UP A DOLLAR TO WIN FIVE. I'M PUTTING UP TWO HUNDRED BUCKS AGAINST A THOUSAND!
OKAY, MISTER. IT'S YOUR WHACK!
TOO BAD, MISTER, THERE'S JUST SOMETHING YOU SEEM TO LACK!
OH, YEAH?
WELL I WON'T BE LACKING THAT TWO HUNDRED YOU JUST GYPPED ME OUT OF! GIVE IT BACK!
HEY!
I'LL HANDLE THIS RUM-DUMB!
GIVE THAT SAPPO THE HEAVE-HO, CLEAR OFF THE LOT. WE DON'T WANT HIS KIND AROUND.
THANKS, TURK!
HEY, KID... WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING WITH THAT DOUGH YOU THINK YOU WON?
HEY... LEAVE THE KID ALONE. HE DID WIN IT! ANYWAY, YOU CLEANED UP PLENTY!
THANKS, MISTER! MY NAME IS TOM CRAIG. YOU WOULDN'T HAVE A JOB WITH THIS CARNIVAL, WOULD YOU?
SURE WE HAVE, M'BOY! WHY, YOU'RE PRACTICALLY WITH IT ALREADY! I'M J. RODNEY BATES... CALL ME BINGO FOR SHORT!
SUCH WAS TOM'S INTRODUCTION TO WORLD WIDE SHOWS... AND WITH IT HIS EDUCATION BEGAN!
2

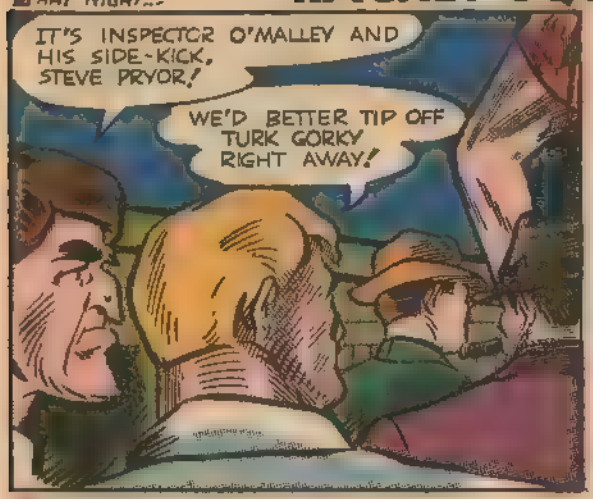
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

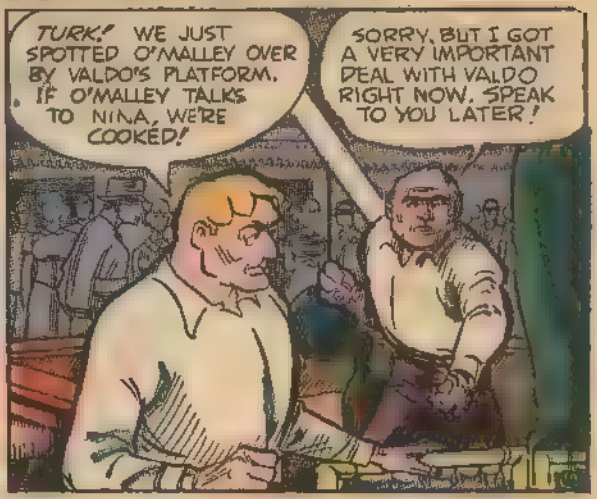
BINGO HIRED YOU! WHY, HE'S ONLY A STICK!
A STICK?
A "STICK" M'LAD, IS ANOTHER TERM FOR A "SHILL" OR CONFEDERATE
THEIR JOB IS TO HELP THE "GRIFTER" TAKE THE "SUCKER" OR "CHUMP". LAST NIGHT WHEN I LEANED AGAINST THIS GUY-WIRE, IT DREW THE TRACK TAUT, ENABLING YOU TO SLAM THE RACER CLEAR UP TO THE BELL!
BUT WHEN YOU LET IT GO SLACK, HERBY COULDN'T WIN! SO THAT WAS IT!
YES M'BOY, YOU'LL BE A GREAT HELP. HERE, TAKE A TRY AT THIS GAME!
SWING THE BALL, HIT THE PIN ON THE RETURN AND WIN A BUCK!
FIVE HITS IN A ROW, FIVE DOLLARS TO YOU, MY FRIEND!
I'LL TRY IT.. AT TWENTY BUCKS A SWING!
FAT LADY
AND THAT TIME YOU LOST A HUNDRED BUCKS, FRIEND!
FUNNY... THAT GUY ALWAYS MISSES!
COME ALONG, M'LAD!
FAT LADY
YOU CHEATED ME.. I WANT MY DOUGH.. AARRRRR..
GIVE HIM THE USUAL TREATMENT AND CHUCK HIM OFF THE LOT!
3

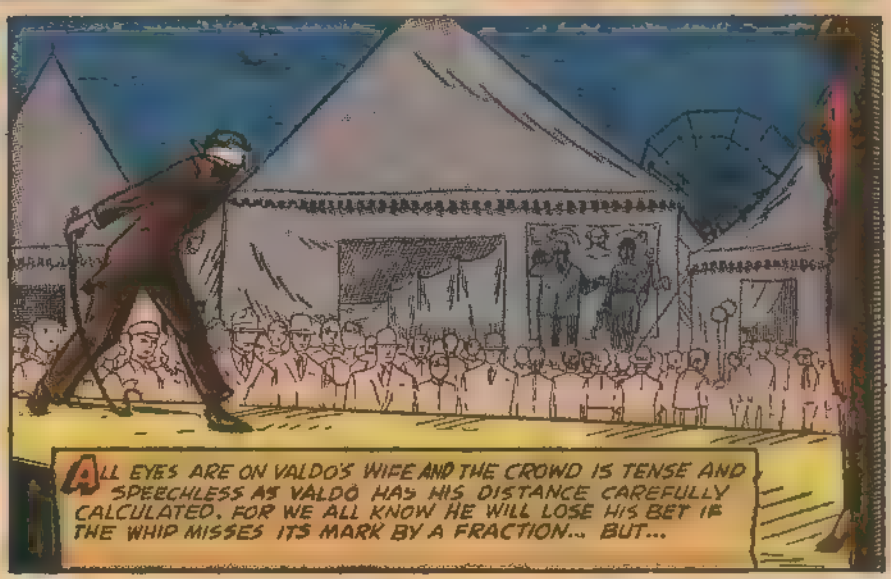
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION


IT WAS NEARLY A WEEK BEFORE TOM CRAIG LEARNED THAT THE "SWINGING BALL" HAD A "GAFF" LIKE THE "HIGH STRIKER"... BUT THAT WASN'T ALL TOM LEARNED!
YOU MEAN IT WASN'T SKILL ON MY PART?
OF COURSE NOT! TURK SHIFTS THE FRAME BY PRESSING THIS BOARD, SO THE BALL HITS OR MISSES AS HE WANTS
GEE... EVERY GAME ON THE LOT MUST BE GAFFED! SAY... WHAT'S THAT?.. A WOMAN'S VOICE! AND IS SHE MAD!
AND I'M WISE TO YOUR RACKET, TURK GORKY! MY HUSBAND AND I HAD $10,000 WHEN WE CAME TO THIS CIRCUS AND YOU'VE TAKEN HIM FOR $8000 OF IT WITH YOUR CROOKED BETTING!
WE HAVE $2000 LEFT AND I INTEND TO STOP YOU FROM GETTING IT, EVEN IF I HAVE TO GO TO THE POLICE.
HMM... SO HE STILL HAS $2000 LEFT.. WELL, SOUNDS VERY INTERESTING!
THE VALDOS KING OF THE BULL-WHIP
AH, TURK! JUST THE MAN I WANT TO SEE. MY WIFE FOUND OUT ABOUT MY LOSSES TO YOU. GIVE ME A SPORTING CHANCE I'LL BET $2000 AGAINST YOUR $8000 THAT I'LL SNAP A PIECE OF CHALK FROM MY WIFE'S MOUTH WITH MY EYES BLINDFOLDED!
HAW, HAW! BLINDFOLDED? I'D BE A CHUMP FOR NOT TAKING YOU UP. OK. THE BETS ON TONIGHT!
WHAT A SAP! YOU CAN TELL HE'S NOT BEEN AROUND CARNIVALS LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW WHEN HE'S LICKED I JUST CAN'T LOSE!
4

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION




TURK! WE JUST SPOTTED O'MALLEY OVER BY VALDO'S PLATFORM. IF O'MALLEY TALKS TO NINA, WE'RE COOKED!
SORRY, BUT I GOT A VERY IMPORTANT DEAL WITH VALDO RIGHT NOW. SPEAK TO YOU LATER!


ALL EYES ARE ON VALDO'S WIFE AND THE CROWD IS TENSE AND SPEECHLESS AS VALDO HAS HIS DISTANCE CAREFULLY CALCULATED. FOR WE ALL KNOW HE WILL LOSE HIS BET IF THE WHIP MISSES ITS MARK BY A FRACTION... BUT...

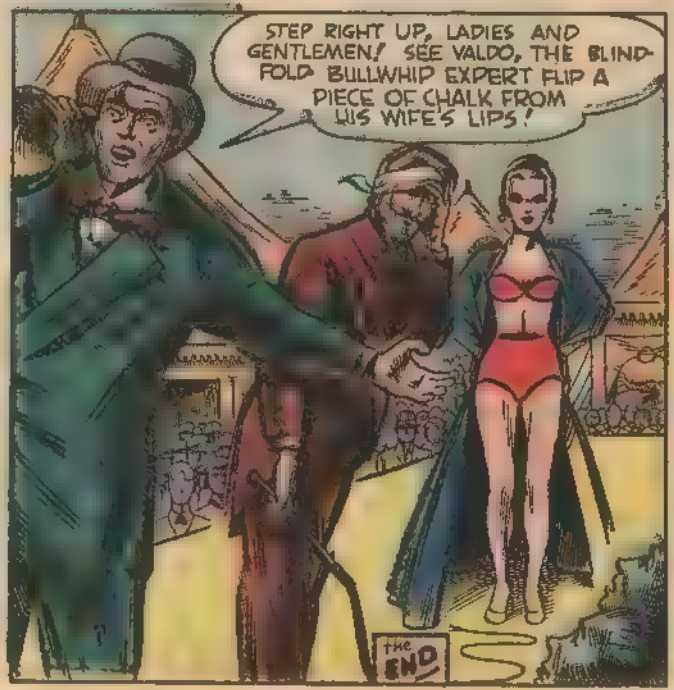
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

GOSH! WHAT'S TOM CRAIG CLIMBING UP ON THE PLATFORM FOR? MAYBE IT'S A GAG!
VALDO! STOP!! YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT!
I OVERHEARD YOU MAKING THAT BET WITH TURK, AND I JUST SAW HIM SNAP OFF A COUPLE OF INCHES FROM YOUR WHIP SO YOU WOULD MISS THE CHALK!
I FEEX TURK... AND QUEEK!
COME ON, STEVE. WE'D BETTER HANDLE THIS!
BEFORE TURK COULD BE REACHED HE GAVE THE CARNEY'S BATTLE-CRY...
HEY RUUBEE!
HEY RUUBBEEE!
HEY RUUBEE!
6

AT THE SHOUT OF "HEY RUBE" EVERY CARNEY ON THE LOT RALLIED TO THE BATTLE BEGUN BY TURK GORKY AND HIS CREW... USUALLY SUCH CONFLICTS ARE BETWEEN CARNIVAL MEN AND TOWNSFOLK... OR EVEN THE POLICE... IN THIS CASE IT WAS GRIFTER AGAINST GRIFTER, STICK AGAINST STICK, ROUGHNECK AGAINST ROUGHNECK, IN A MAD FREE-FOR-ALL... ONE FACTION TRYING TO BEAT DOWN ANOTHER, WITH ONLY THREE MEN... TURK, TOM AND VALDO... KNOWING THE REAL REASON WHY! THAT REASON WAS THAT TURK WANTED TO DODGE THE LAW LONG ENOUGH TO WIN THE LAST TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM TRUSTING VALDO.
HEY RUBE!
BOP!
BIFF!
BLAM!
7

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

AND SO THE WORLD WIDE SHOWS CONTINUED ON ITS WAY, NO BETTER, NO WORSE THAN MOST OTHER CARNIVALS... ONLY TOM CRAIG WAS A "STICK" NO LONGER... HE'D DROPPED ALL CONNECTIONS WITH THE "GRIFTERS" WHO TRIM THE CHUMPS LIKE YOU... TOM HAD A BETTER JOB...


STEP RIGHT UP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! SEE VALDO, THE BLINDFOLD BULLWHIP EXPERT FLIP A PIECE OF CHALK FROM HIS WIFE'S LIPS!
THE END

YES, THERE'S A LOT OF GOOD FUN AT A CARNIVAL... THE BULLWHIP ACT, THE FERRIS WHEEL... AND ALL THAT... FUN PLAYING THE GAMES, TOO, IF YOU DON'T MIND ALWAYS LOSING, AS YOU WILL... BELIEVE ME!
JJ O'Malley
INSPECTOR

IT'S A RACKET

Rackets have been with us since the dawn of history. They are found in the customs of primitive tribes, through the civilizations of ancient Rome and Greece as well as the Middle Ages when feudal lords and robber barons held sway. Now, in this enlightened Twentieth Century, rackets flourish as much as ever, though now they are more clearly defined. However, in the public mind there is still some confusion between legitimate business and certain types of rackets. In fact it is not uncommon for some businesses to degenerate into the racket category.

Let's take as an example, a famous racket of ancient Rome. At this time of Julius Caesar, the wealthiest man in all Rome was Marcus Crassus, also the racketeer supreme. Posing as a public benefactor, Crassus built up what was really the first organized fire company, composed of squads of bucket-passers who were constantly on call.

Naturally, the citizens subscribed for such service, so in a sense Crassus was providing the first fire insurance as well, except that he never paid off. The more fires the higher the rate because there was more work for Crassus's crew. So his organization included the first firebugs. It was their job to start fires in areas where people had failed to subscribe to the service. The burning of those sections was a lesson to the non-subscribers. It also made Crassus's regular customers very happy, to know that they were living in districts where fires weren't likely to occur.

Out of that, Crassus developed a real estate racket. He would march his bucket brigade ahead of the approaching conflagration and offer to buy property that was in the fire's path. Naturally a man would sell a house cheap rather than wait for it to be burned out. But once it belonged to Crassus, he put his crowd to work to save it. His outfit included the first strong-arm mob, too, because it couldn't stand competition from volunteer firemen. They had to be discouraged by slugging tactics.

We don't have to go back to the times of Marcus Crassus to laugh at such outlandish practices. Only a century ago, America's big cities found themselves in the grip of a very similar problem but with a reverse twist. Fire companies operated on a volunteer basis and their markers — some of which can be seen today — were placed on the sides of houses. Competition became so keen that one outfit would lie in wait for another and start a free-for-all when it came along. Fighting over who was to put out the fire became a more urgent issue than putting out the fire itself.

That's one big reason why municipal fire companies came into being. Insurance companies, too, provide and encourage all forms of fire prevention and lessening of fire hazards. But the racketeers of today are the firebugs themselves. The schemes of "torches" who seek to swindle insurance companies, provide graphic stories. Arson is a crime now, punishable even by death in certain states, if committed in dwellings where human lives are jeopardized by the act. So this is an example of one racket that has been completely outlawed.

One of the most notorious of rackets was developed some twenty years ago, when a phoney life insurance company was used as a "front" for a lottery. On payment of ten dollars, a customer was given a hundred dollar "policy" in the event of death within a short period and at the same time was entitled to "dividends" which were to be paid by monthly "drawings." Actually, people were paying ten times more than their insurance was worth, the lottery being the real thing they were buying. The small-fry racketeers who worked as "insurance agents" moved fast, but they didn't stay ahead of the law very long. The company folded so fast it couldn't even pay its own death claim.

Without a doubt, the most insidious form of racket is the sort that poses as legitimate business, preying upon the average man's confidence in fair enterprise and recognized products. Often racketeers buy into some well-known company

in order to unload spurious goods. Their plea is always that they have simply followed the pattern of big business. They do not trouble to add that they are referring only to the type of big business that has already been honeycombed by racketeers.

There is an erroneous notion that brutality and violence are too crude for the modern big-time racketeer. That's the sort of propaganda that the racketeers themselves encourage. They simply have covered their methods by emphasizing one motive instead of another. Their favorite trick, for instance, is to play upon the greed of the victim.

This is the basis of the famous "green goods" swindle which is really the granddaddy of its tribe. A customer was offered counterfeit money — subtly styled "green goods" in the circular he received — in return for ten percent of the amount in ordinary cash. That is, if he paid a hundred dollars in genuine money, he'd receive a thousand of the "green."

To encourage customers, the gyps would mail them samples, suggesting that they pass a single dollar at the local bank and call it an accident, should the counterfeit be detected. However, it never was detected. The reason: the so-called "green goods" was actually genuine money, intended to convince the sucker as to the quality of the counterfeits that it was supposed to represent.

Customers who fell for this game were given a bundle of blank paper with a few genuine bills on the outside. At no time did the racketeers violate the counterfeiting laws. From his standpoint, that made the game doubly safe. He'd committed no crime and the burden being on the sucker, the latter would never squawk. But the crime was actual, just the same. Today the law clamps down on all such swindles, regardless of the sucker's status.

There is a good example in the case of the big con games where a dupe is deceived into betting a huge sum on a horse race. Always, the money is in cash which the sucker drew from the bank. All the sucker has to do is distort the story of how he paid the money. By simply claiming that he realized something was phoney, but paid up under threat, he puts the burden on the racketeeers. It isn't a case of whether the sucker is right or wrong. The real issue is that the racketeer is always wrong and therefore has no defense.

The final appeal is that of sympathy, which in a sense is the meanest racket of all. This is the type of swindle that everyone should be posted against, since it may strike anyone at any time. The specialists in this field are the most contemptible of racketeers because they intercept funds which often would be given to a worthy cause.

One type of phoney is the unhappy college professor. He shows up at the home of a boy who is away at college and chats cheerily with the family about their boy's prospects. Or sometimes he drops in on an old alumnus, who hasn't been back to the campus for twenty years or more.

In either case, the pitch is the same. It winds up with the prof saying that he's low on funds, or breaking down completely over some financial problem that he simply can't meet on a college professor's modest salary. The fond parents and the old grads fall for this and offer him a cash loan which he accepts gratefully and goes his way. The "professor" never stays for dinner if he can help it, because he doesn't want to lose time working a town. Needless to say, he isn't a professor at all, but a phoney who has familiarized himself with that particular college and has acquired his sucker lists from the pages of its catalog.

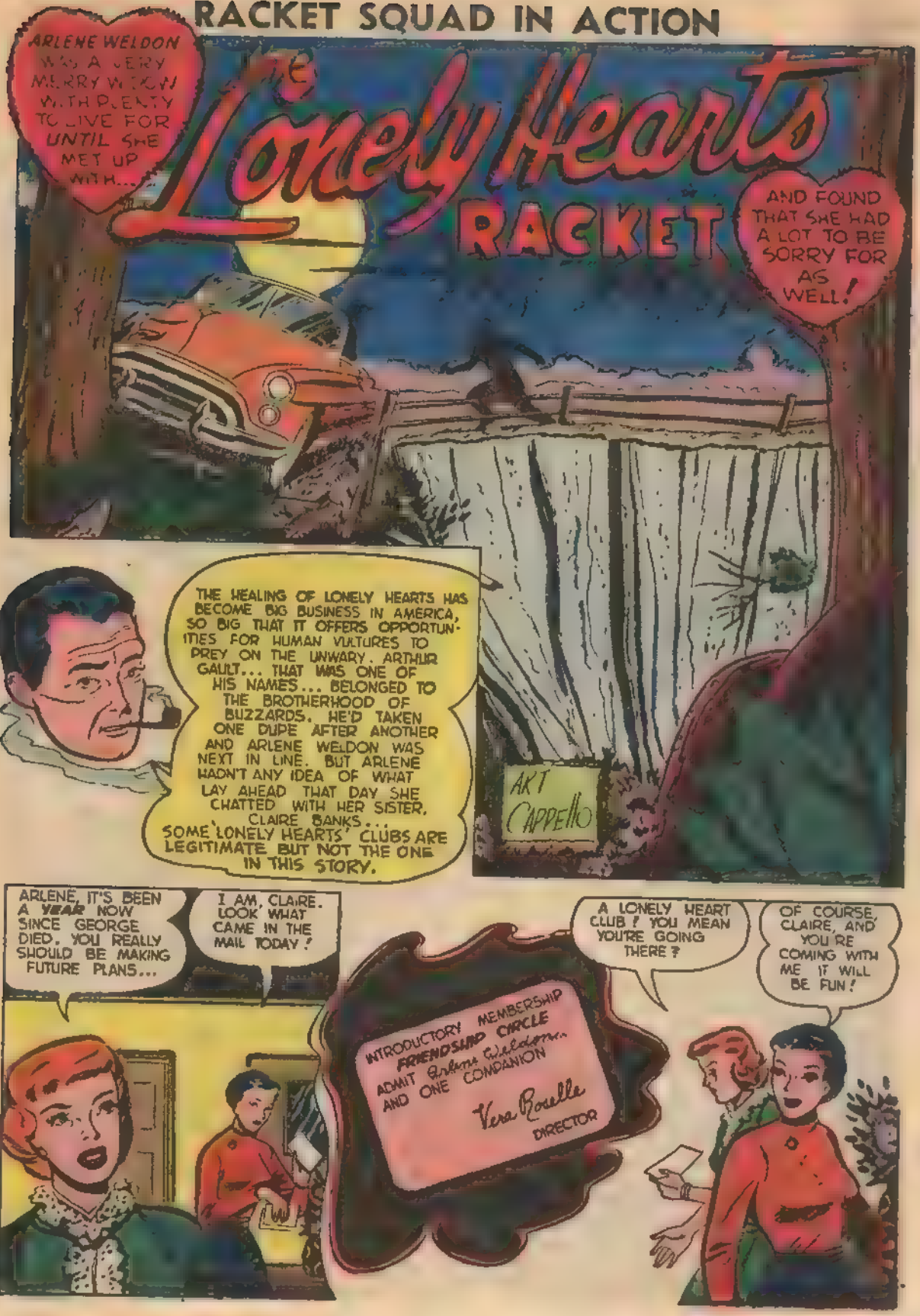
Of all the sympathy workers, the worst are the hearse chasers. They spend their time reading obituary columns. The meanest are the racketeers who ship unordered merchandise, usually on a C.O.D. basis to the home of a deceased person, on the chance that the family will pay up. It's a safe bet from the grafter's standpoint; nobody can ever disprove his claim that the dead man ordered the goods.

More daring crooks really play upon the sympathies of the bereaved family by claiming to be an old friend of the deceased. Later, while such a swindler is expressing mutual sorrow with the relatives, he brings up the matter of a loan that he made to his dear, dead friend. Chances often are that he'll get it paid back out of insurance or inheritance money.

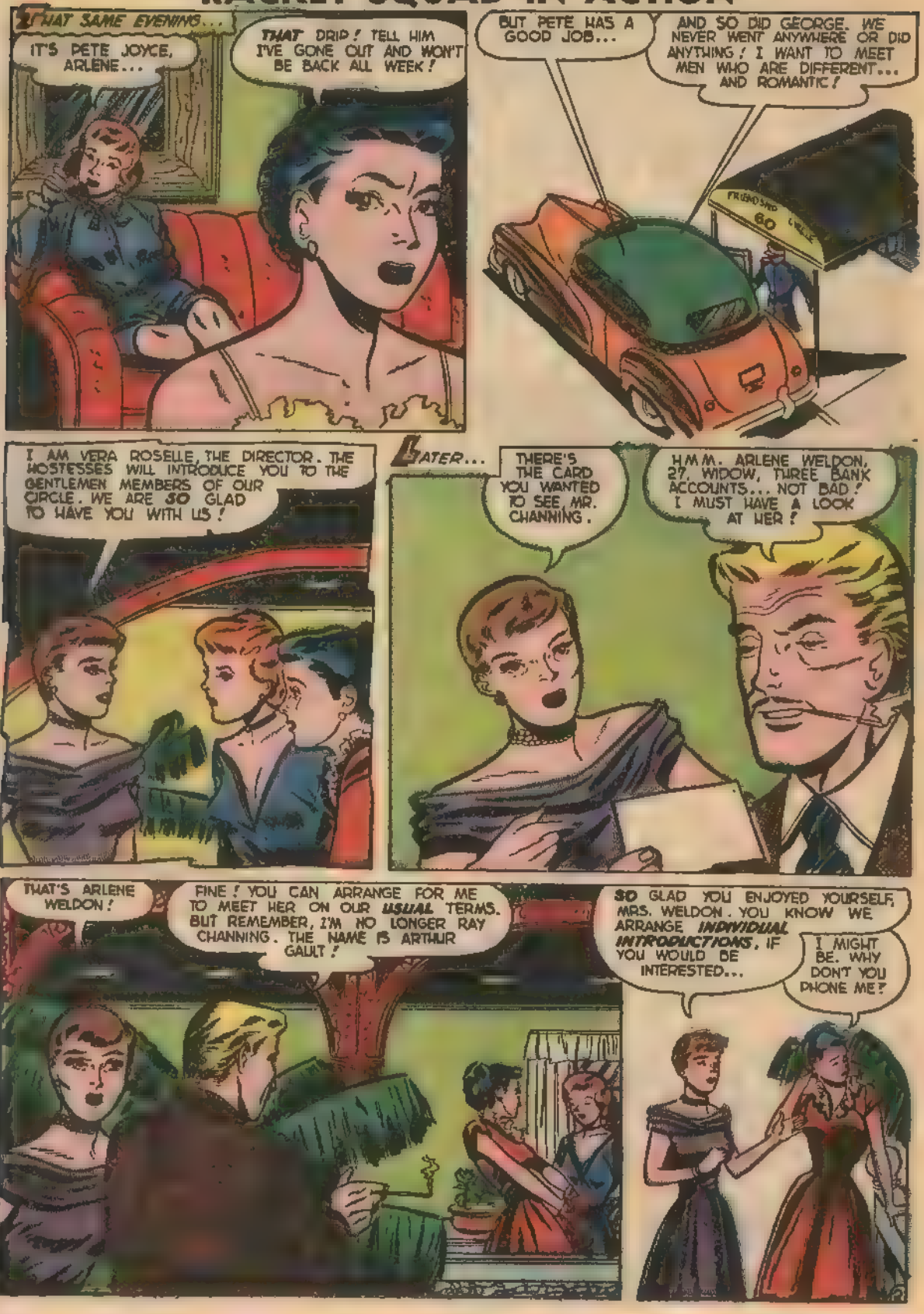
Actually, the racketeer never even knew the dead man, let alone loaned him any money. Vultures of this type play the obit columns and establish contact at funeral parlors. Along with being the meanest of rackets, it's one of the safest, as the swindler can play the mourner act until he's sure of his ground.

The adage: "There's nothing new under the sun" applies to most rackets. Usually the so-called "new" swindles are old ones with a fresh twist. There are styles in frauds as well as in everything else and those styles keep coming back.

Watch for that pattern, the glib, rehearsed manner of the chap who knows all the answers. Then you'll know that whatever he offers, it's a racket.

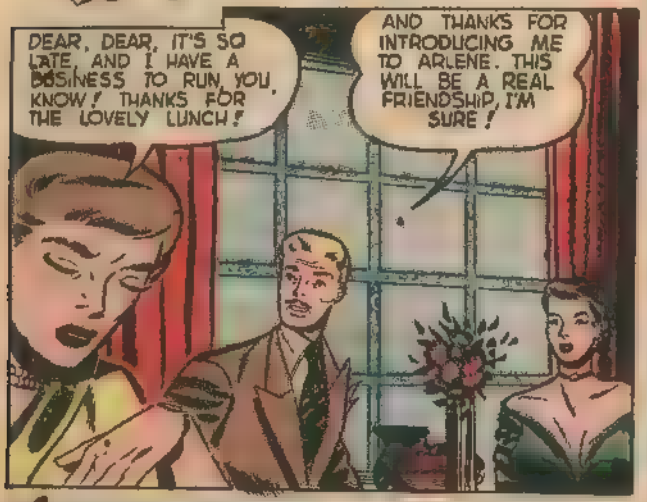

ARLENE WELDON WAS A VERY MERRY WIDOW WITH PLENTY TO LIVE FOR UNTIL SHE MET UP WITH...
The Lonely Hearts RACKET
AND FOUND THAT SHE HAD A LOT TO BE SORRY FOR AS WELL!
THE HEALING OF LONELY HEARTS HAS BECOME BIG BUSINESS IN AMERICA, SO BIG THAT IT OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES FOR HUMAN VULTURES TO PREY ON THE UNWARY. ARTHUR GAULT... THAT WAS ONE OF HIS NAMES... BELONGED TO THE BROTHERHOOD OF BUZZARDS. HE'D TAKEN ONE DUPE AFTER ANOTHER AND ARLENE WELDON WAS NEXT IN LINE. BUT ARLENE HADN'T ANY IDEA OF WHAT LAY AHEAD THAT DAY SHE CHATTED WITH HER SISTER, CLAIRE BANKS... SOME LONELY HEARTS' CLUBS ARE LEGITIMATE. BUT NOT THE ONE IN THIS STORY.
AKT CAPPELLO
ARLENE, IT'S BEEN A YEAR NOW SINCE GEORGE DIED. YOU REALLY SHOULD BE MAKING FUTURE PLANS...
I AM, CLAIRE. LOOK WHAT CAME IN THE MAIL TODAY!
INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE ADMIT Arlene Weldon AND ONE COMPANION
Vera Roselle DIRECTOR
A LONELY HEART CLUB? YOU MEAN YOU'RE GOING THERE?
OF COURSE, CLAIRE, AND YOU'RE COMING WITH ME IT WILL BE FUN!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

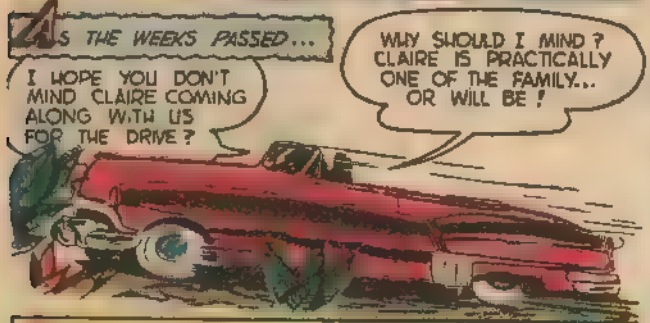

THAT SAME EVENING...
IT'S PETE JOYCE, ARLENE...
THAT DRIP! TELL HIM I'VE GONE OUT AND WON'T BE BACK ALL WEEK!
BUT PETE HAS A GOOD JOB...
AND SO DID GEORGE. WE NEVER WENT ANYWHERE OR DID ANYTHING! I WANT TO MEET MEN WHO ARE DIFFERENT... AND ROMANTIC!
I AM VERA ROSELLE, THE DIRECTOR. THE HOSTESSES WILL INTRODUCE YOU TO THE GENTLEMEN MEMBERS OF OUR CIRCLE. WE ARE SO GLAD TO HAVE YOU WITH US!
LATER...
THERE'S THE CARD YOU WANTED TO SEE MR. CHANNING.
HMM. ARLENE WELDON, 27, WIDOW, THREE BANK ACCOUNTS... NOT BAD! I MUST HAVE A LOOK AT HER!
THAT'S ARLENE WELDON!
FINE! YOU CAN ARRANGE FOR ME TO MEET HER ON OUR USUAL TERMS. BUT REMEMBER, I'M NO LONGER RAY CHANNING. THE NAME IS ARTHUR GAULT!
SO GLAD YOU ENJOYED YOURSELF, MRS. WELDON. YOU KNOW WE ARRANGE INDIVIDUAL INTRODUCTIONS, IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED...
I MIGHT BE. WHY DON'T YOU PHONE ME?

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

"WITHIN A FEW DAYS ARLENE WELDON RECEIVED THE EXPECTED CALL FROM VERA ROSELLE... AS A RESULT, A LUNCHEON DATE WAS ARRANGED... FOR A FEE, OF COURSE... WITH A DEBONAIR GENTLEMAN NAMED ARTHUR GAULT."


DEAR, DEAR, IT'S SO LATE, AND I HAVE A BUSINESS TO RUN, YOU KNOW! THANKS FOR THE LOVELY LUNCH!
AND THANKS FOR INTRODUCING ME TO ARLENE. THIS WILL BE A REAL FRIENDSHIP, I'M SURE!

BE A REAL FRIEND-SHIP? DO YOU MEAN A LASTING ONE?
CERTAINLY! ALL MY LIFE I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU, COULD I EVER GIVE YOU UP?


AS THE WEEKS PASSED...
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND CLAIRE COMING ALONG WITH US FOR THE DRIVE?
WHY SHOULD I MIND? CLAIRE IS PRACTICALLY ONE OF THE FAMILY... OR WILL BE!

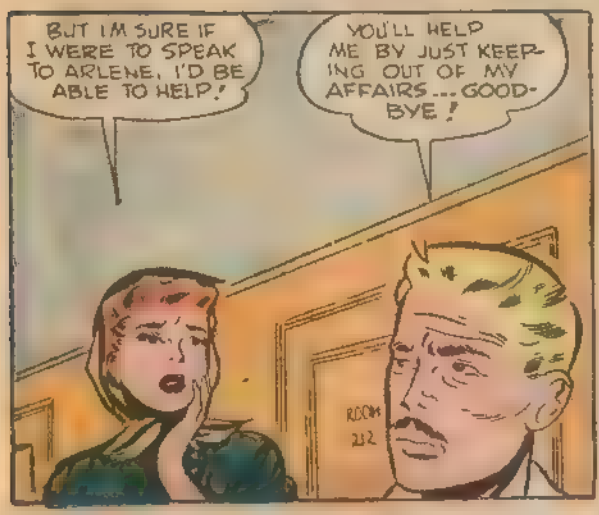
DESPITE CLAIRE'S OBJECTION TO SUCH A RAPID FIRE ROMANCE, ARLENE AND GAULT WERE MARRIED BY AN ACCOMPLICE OF GAULT POSING AS A JUSTICE OF PEACE...

HOW LOVELY IT IS HERE, AWAY FROM THE CITY. WITHOUT A CARE IN THE WORLD!
AND YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE A WORRY AGAIN, MY DEAR. NOW THAT WE'RE MARRIED, I CAN HANDLE ALL YOUR FINANCIAL MATTERS!

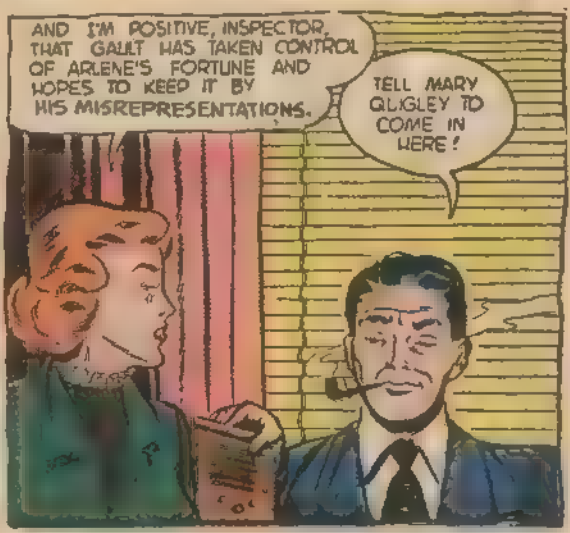
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

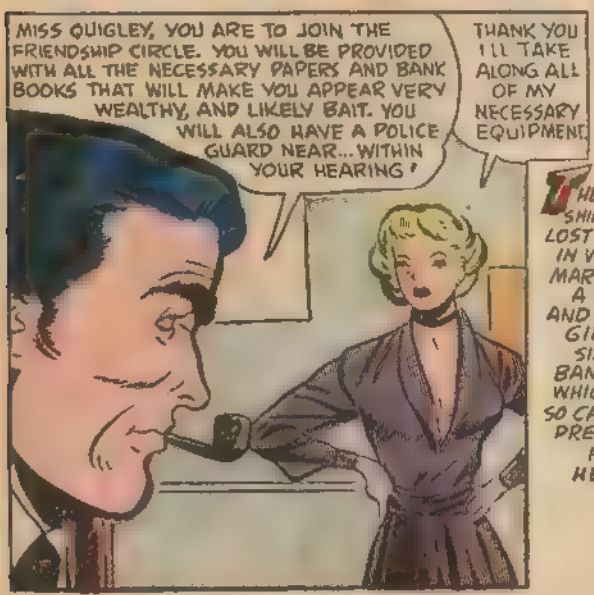
LISTEN, HONEY... CLAIRE DROPPED ME A NOTE THAT SHE WOULD BE AT THE STATION WITH A FRIEND... I'D LIKE TO BE THERE TO PICK THEM UP!
WE'LL TALK ABOUT THAT WHEN WE GET BACK TO THE HOTEL. TOO BAD THAT BIG STOCK DEAL HAD TO COME UP AT A TIME WHEN I WAS IN THE MIDST OF THE BIG AIRPLANE TRANS-ACTION FOR TODAY!
I COULD SALVAGE THOSE STOCKS MY PARTNER HAS UP AT THE CABIN, IF IT WERE POSSIBLE THAT YOU WOULD PICK THEM UP FOR ME. I CAN ALSO MEET YOUR SISTER AT THE TRAIN STATION WHILE YOU ARE GONE!
OF COURSE I WILL PICK UP YOUR STOCKS, DEAR. I REALIZE IT INVOLVES QUITE A LARGE SUM OF MONEY.
AS SOON AS ARLENE IS ON HER WAY TO THE CABIN, GAULT CARRIES OUT HIS SCHEME TO RID HIMSELF OF CLAIRE AND HER FRIEND...NO DOUBT HE SUSPECTS TROUBLE.
LISTEN, BRAD [illegible] WAY UP THERE. GIVE HER A BUNDLE OF OLD FOLDED NEWSPAPERS WRAPPED TO LOOK LIKE IMPORTANT STOCKS!
O.K. AND YOU WANT ME TO DETAIN HER HERE UNTIL UNTIL YOU PHONE HER TO RETURN THERE. I'LL MAKE IT CONVINCING!
AH, THERE'S CLAIRE AND...ER... THAT LOOKS LIKE PETE JOYCE WITH HER... HMMM... HE'S A SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR. I MUST TRY TO GET THEM TO LEAVE HERE AT ONCE.
WHY HELLO... YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T GET THE WIRE I SENT. ARLENE AND I HAD A LITTLE FUSS AND I HAVE AN IDEA SHE RETURNED TO THE CITY!
WELL... JUST AS I THOUGHT, I ALWAYS SAID SHE WAS TOO GOOD FOR YOU! I SUPPOSE WE'LL HAVE TO GO BACK.
GAULT IS UP TO SOMETHING... DO YOU REALLY THINK ARLENE LEFT?
WAIT, PETE. I'LL GO TO HIS HOTEL. I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN FIND OUT!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

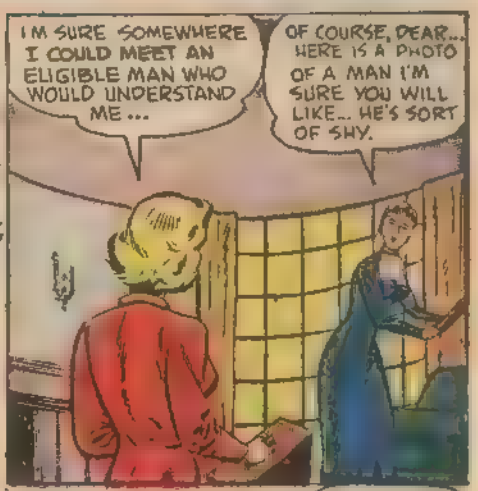


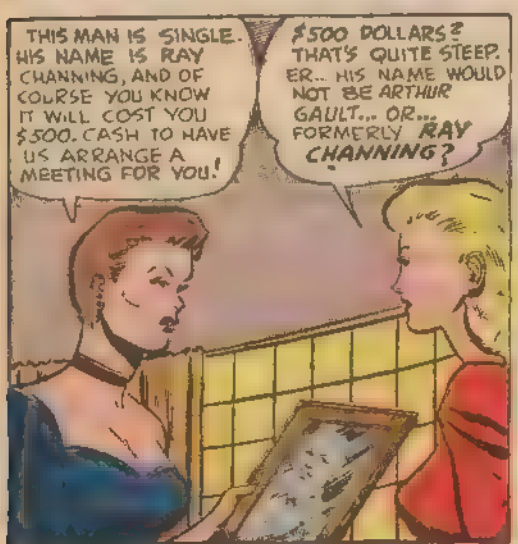
ON DESPERATION CLAIRE CAME TO MY OFFICE - ALARMED - AND GAVE ME WHAT VAGUE CLUES SHE HAD...

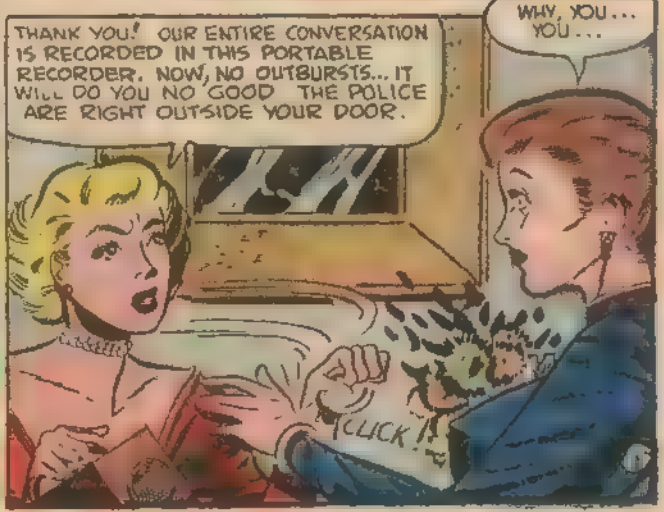

AND I'M POSITIVE, INSPECTOR, THAT GAULT HAS TAKEN CONTROL OF ARLENE'S FORTUNE AND HOPES TO KEEP IT BY HIS MISREPRESENTATIONS.
TELL MARY QUIGLEY TO COME IN HERE!


MISS QUIGLEY, YOU ARE TO JOIN THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE. YOU WILL BE PROVIDED WITH ALL THE NECESSARY PAPERS AND BANK BOOKS THAT WILL MAKE YOU APPEAR VERY WEALTHY, AND LIKELY BAIT. YOU WILL ALSO HAVE A POLICE GUARD NEAR... WITHIN YOUR HEARING!
THANK YOU I'LL TAKE ALONG ALL OF MY NECESSARY EQUIPMENT

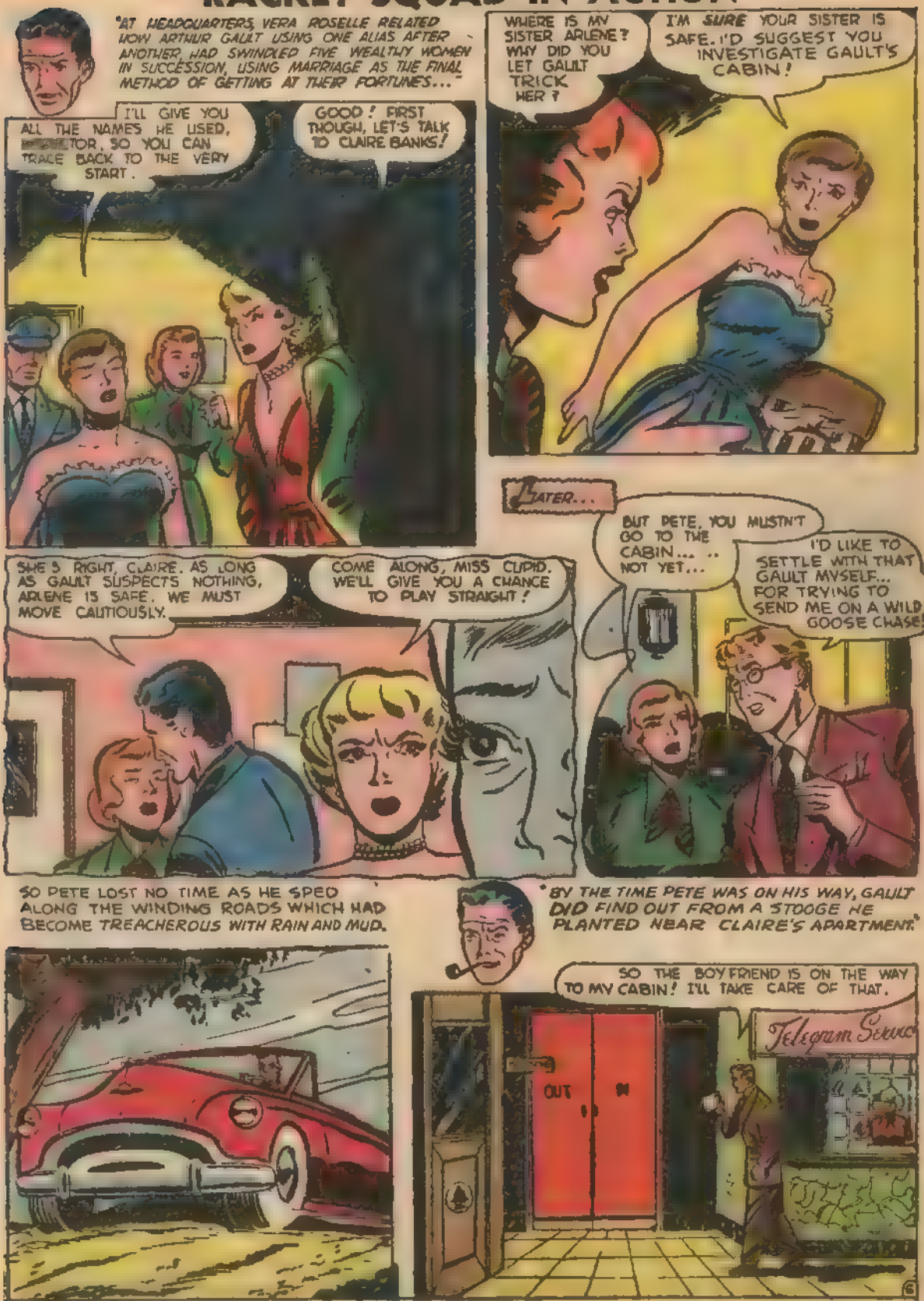
THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE LOST NO TIME IN WELCOMING MARY QUIGLEY, A YOUNG AND ATTRACTIVE GIRL WITH SIZEABLE BANK ACCOUNTS, WHICH WERE SO CAREFULLY PREPARED FOR HER...


I'M SURE SOMEWHERE I COULD MEET AN ELIGIBLE MAN WHO WOULD UNDERSTAND ME...
OF COURSE, DEAR... HERE IS A PHOTO OF A MAN I'M SURE YOU WILL LIKE... HE'S SORT OF SHY.


THIS MAN IS SINGLE. HIS NAME IS RAY CHANNING, AND OF COURSE YOU KNOW IT WILL COST YOU $500. CASH TO HAVE US ARRANGE A MEETING FOR YOU!
$500 DOLLARS? THAT'S QUITE STEEP. ER.. HIS NAME WOULD NOT BE ARTHUR GAULT... OR... FORMERLY RAY CHANNING?

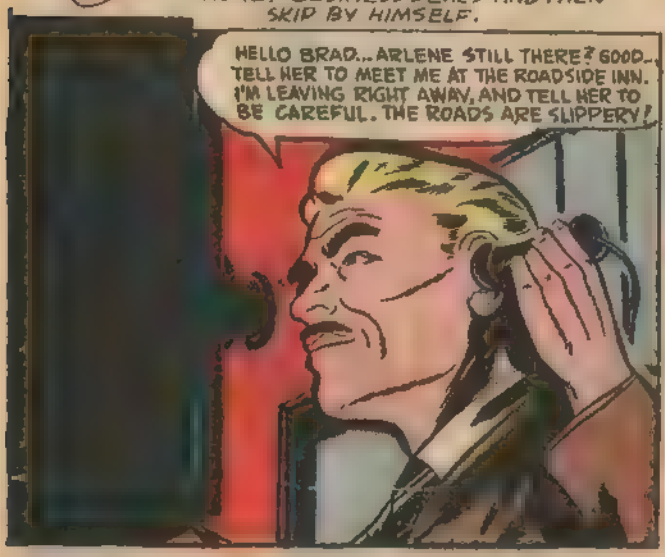

THANK YOU! OUR ENTIRE CONVERSATION IS RECORDED IN THIS PORTABLE RECORDER. NOW, NO OUTBURSTS... IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD THE POLICE ARE RIGHT OUTSIDE YOUR DOOR.
WHY, YOU... YOU...
CLICK!

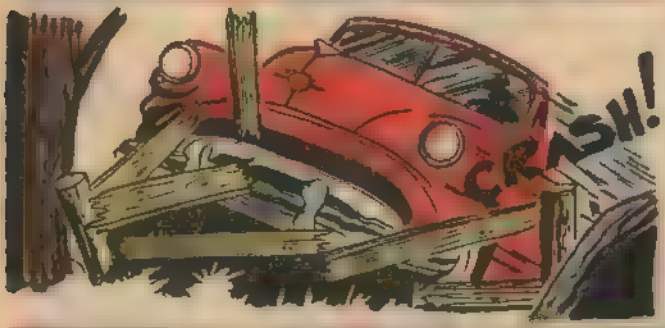
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

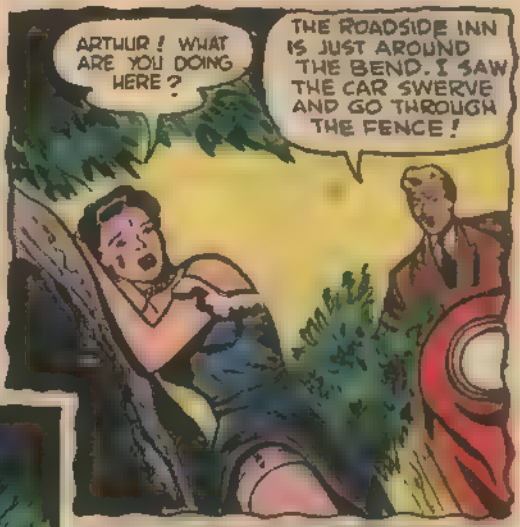

"AT HEADQUARTERS, VERA ROSELLE RELATED HOW ARTHUR GAULT USING ONE ALIAS AFTER ANOTHER, HAD SWINDLED FIVE WEALTHY WOMEN IN SUCCESSION, USING MARRIAGE AS THE FINAL METHOD OF GETTING AT THEIR FORTUNES..."
I'LL GIVE YOU ALL THE NAMES HE USED, [illegible]TOR, SO YOU CAN TRACE BACK TO THE VERY START.
GOOD! FIRST THOUGH, LET'S TALK TO CLAIRE BANKS!
WHERE IS MY SISTER ARLENE? WHY DID YOU LET GAULT TRICK HER?
I'M SURE YOUR SISTER IS SAFE. I'D SUGGEST YOU INVESTIGATE GAULT'S CABIN!
LATER...
BUT PETE, YOU MUSTN'T GO TO THE CABIN... .. NOT YET...
I'D LIKE TO SETTLE WITH THAT GAULT MYSELF... FOR TRYING TO SEND ME ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE!
SHE'S RIGHT, CLAIRE. AS LONG AS GAULT SUSPECTS NOTHING, ARLENE IS SAFE. WE MUST MOVE CAUTIOUSLY.
COME ALONG, MISS CUPID. WE'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO PLAY STRAIGHT!
SO PETE LOST NO TIME AS HE SPED ALONG THE WINDING ROADS WHICH HAD BECOME TREACHEROUS WITH RAIN AND MUD.
"BY THE TIME PETE WAS ON HIS WAY, GAULT DID FIND OUT FROM A STOOGE HE PLANTED NEAR CLAIRE'S APARTMENT."
SO THE BOYFRIEND IS ON THE WAY TO MY CABIN! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT.
Telegram Servic
OUT
IN
6

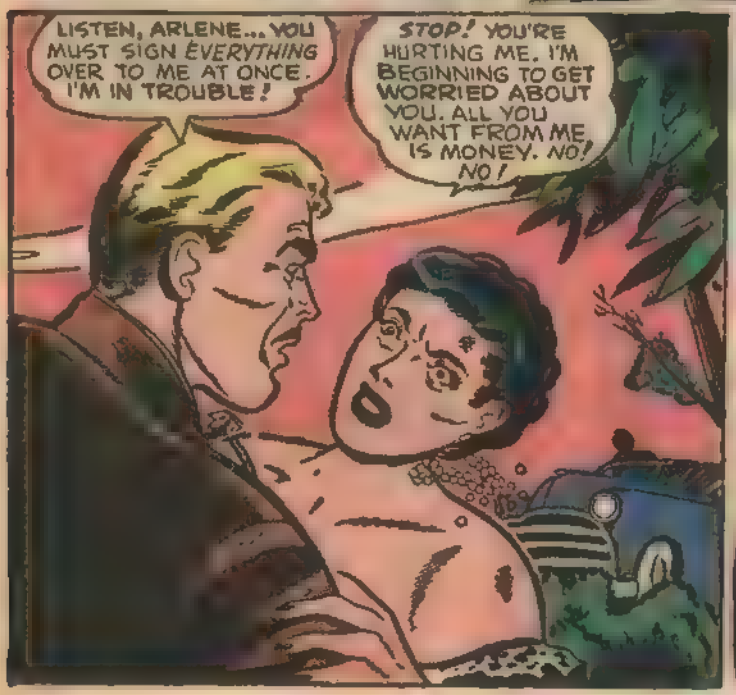
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

CAULT HAD TO ACT SWIFTLY. HE TRIED TO GET ARLENE AWAY FROM EVERYONE SO HE COULD PERSUADE HER TO GIVE HIM ALL HER FORTUNE FOR HIS PHONEY BUSINESS DEALS AND THEN SKIP BY HIMSELF.

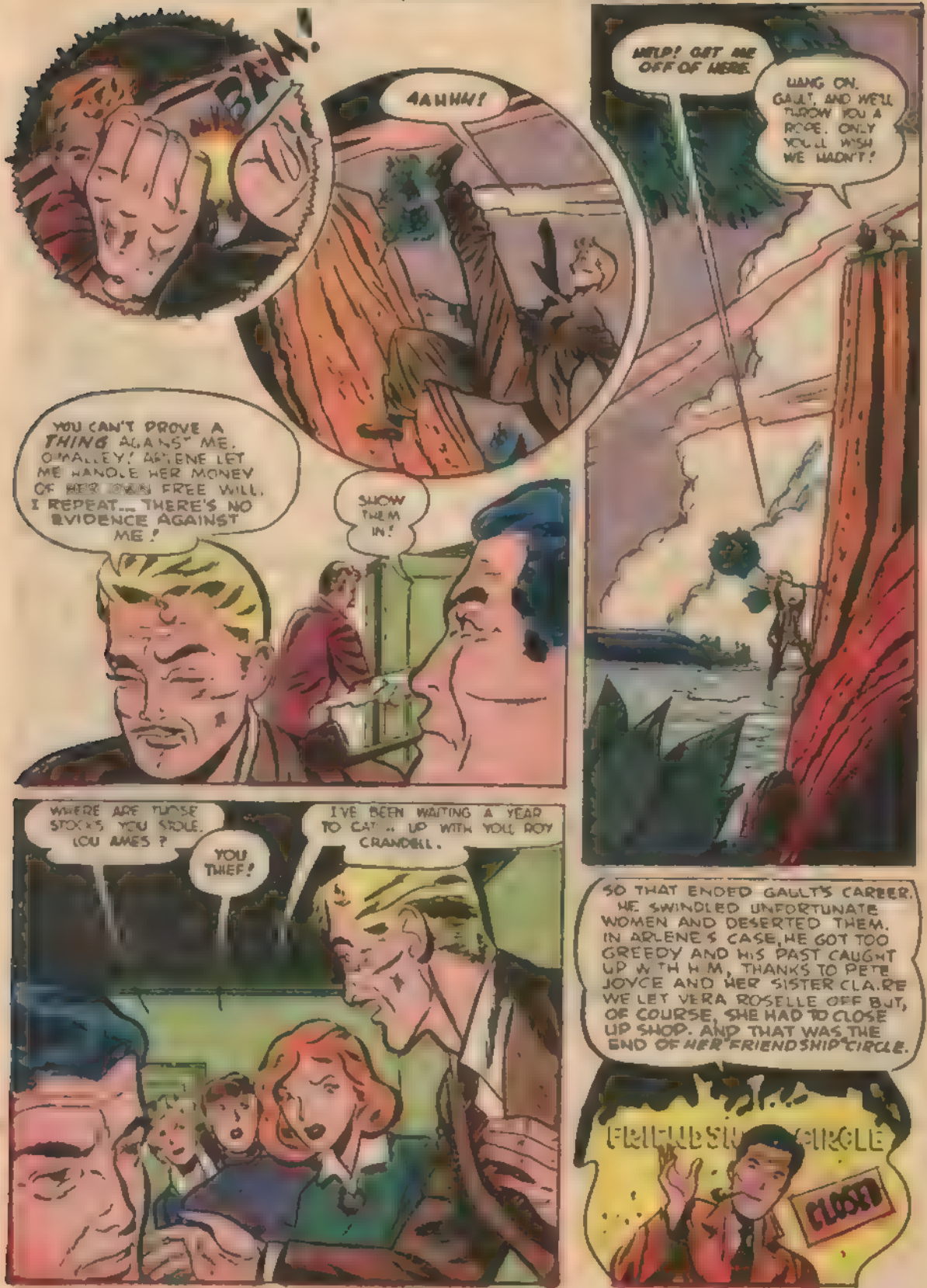

HELLO BRAD... ARLENE STILL THERE? GOOD.. TELL HER TO MEET ME AT THE ROADSIDE INN. I'M LEAVING RIGHT AWAY, AND TELL HER TO BE CAREFUL. THE ROADS ARE SLIPPERY!





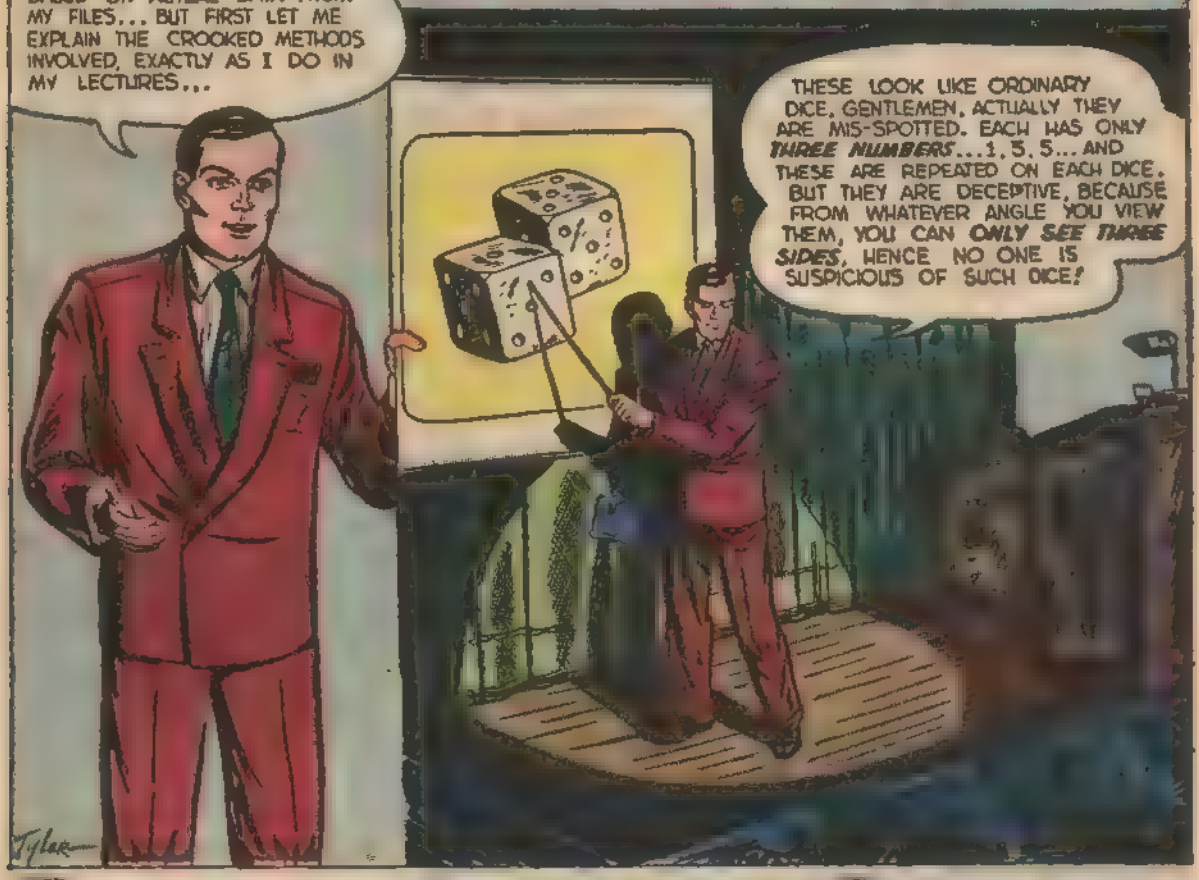

LISTEN, ARLENE... YOU MUST SIGN EVERYTHING OVER TO ME AT ONCE. I'M IN TROUBLE!
STOP! YOU'RE HURTING ME. I'M BEGINNING TO GET WORRIED ABOUT YOU. ALL YOU WANT FROM ME IS MONEY. NO! NO!

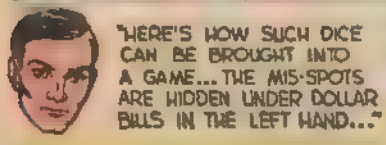
RracketSquad in Action

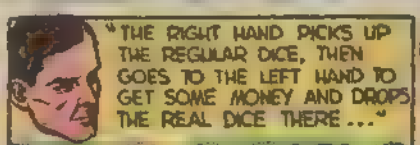

BAM!
AAHHH!
HELP! GET ME OFF OF HERE.
HANG ON, GAULT, AND WE'LL THROW YOU A ROPE. ONLY YOU'LL WISH WE HADN'T!
YOU CAN'T PROVE A THING AGAINST ME, O'MALLEY! ARLENE LET ME HANDLE HER MONEY OF HER OWN FREE WILL. I REPEAT... THERE'S NO EVIDENCE AGAINST ME!
SHOW THEM IN!
WHERE ARE THOSE STOCKS YOU STOLE, LOU AMES?
YOU THIEF!
I'VE BEEN WAITING A YEAR TO CATCH UP WITH YOU, ROY CRANDELL.
SO THAT ENDED GAULT'S CAREER. HE SWINDLED UNFORTUNATE WOMEN AND DESERTED THEM. IN ARLENE'S CASE, HE GOT TOO GREEDY AND HIS PAST CAUGHT UP WITH HIM, THANKS TO PETE JOYCE AND HER SISTER CLAIRE. WE LET VERA ROSELLE OFF BUT, OF COURSE, SHE HAD TO CLOSE UP SHOP. AND THAT WAS THE END OF HER FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE.
CLOSED

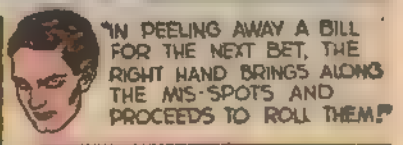
GAMBLERS WON'T GAMBLE, BUT SOMETIMES THEY WILL

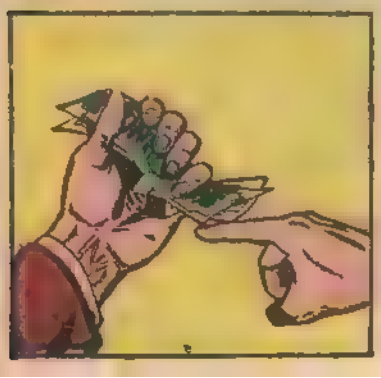
TAKE A CHANCE

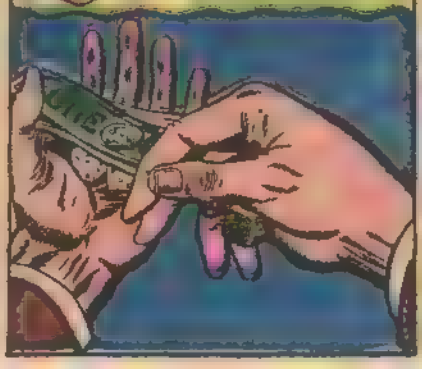

I'M SIDNEY RADNER, OF HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS. I EXPOSE CROOKED GAMBLERS BY EXPLAINING AND DEMONSTRATING THEIR METHODS IN LECTURES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY... HERE IS A STORY BASED ON ACTUAL DATA FROM MY FILES... BUT FIRST LET ME EXPLAIN THE CROOKED METHODS INVOLVED, EXACTLY AS I DO IN MY LECTURES...
THESE LOOK LIKE ORDINARY DICE, GENTLEMEN, ACTUALLY THEY ARE MIS-SPOTTED. EACH HAS ONLY THREE NUMBERS... 1, 3, 5... AND THESE ARE REPEATED ON EACH DICE. BUT THEY ARE DECEPTIVE, BECAUSE FROM WHATEVER ANGLE YOU VIEW THEM, YOU CAN ONLY SEE THREE SIDES, HENCE NO ONE IS SUSPICIOUS OF SUCH DICE!
Tyler











RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

"THE STORY OF THESE DICE BEGINS WITH THE DAY WHEN I WAS ASKED TO AN IMPORTANT CONFERENCE AT A LARGE DEFENSE PLANT."

RADNER, WE'VE HAD A LOT OF TROUBLE FROM "FLOATING CRAP-GAMES" THAT BOB UP EVERY PAY DAY. WE WANT YOU TO INVESTIGATE THEM.

I'M GOING TO TURN YOU OVER TO A FOREMAN, TO OUTFIT YOU LIKE ONE OF THE WORKERS.

GOOD, DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE A PAY-CHECK, COME PAY-DAY! THAT'S IMPORTANT!

I'M BIFF CADY. YOU'RE NEW AREN'T YOU? FOUND A WAY TO CASH YOUR PAY-CHECK YET?

NOT YET.

THEN TAG ALONG WITH US!

THOSE CHECK CASHING OUTFITS EITHER GIVE YOU THE SNOOT OR CHARGE YOU TOO MUCH.

WE'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO *GET CASH* AND *MAKE CASH* BESIDES!

"WHEN WE LEFT THE PLANT WE WERE TAILED BY A COUPLE OF PRIVATE COPS. STRAIGHT TO AN OLD POOL ROOM..."

GET YOUR PAY CHECKS CASHED HERE, FELLOWS. A HUNDRED CENTS ON THE DOLLAR!

HOW ABOUT JOINING IN A FRIENDLY CRAP-GAME, FELLOW? YOU LOOK LUCKY!

SUITS ME!

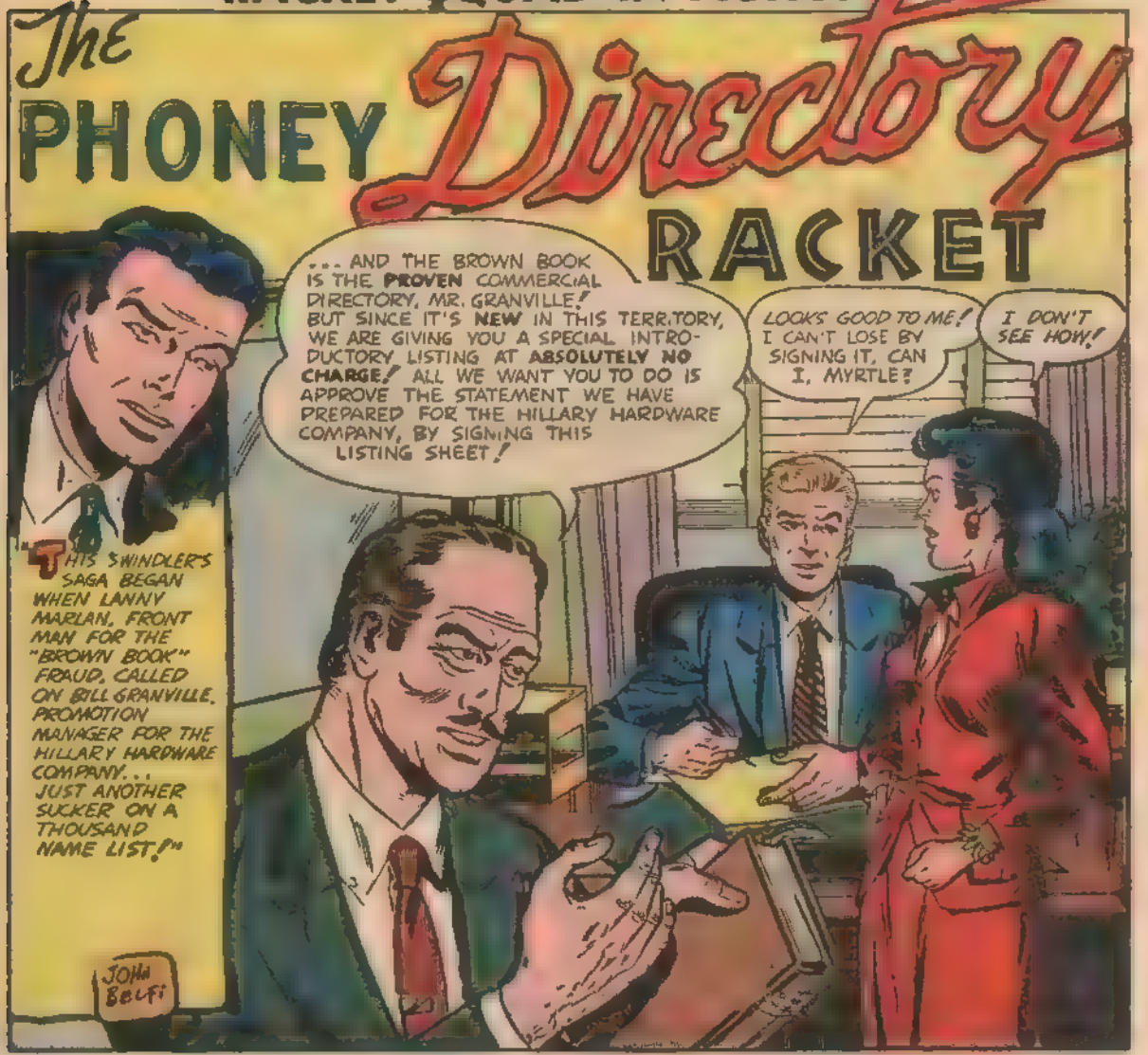
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

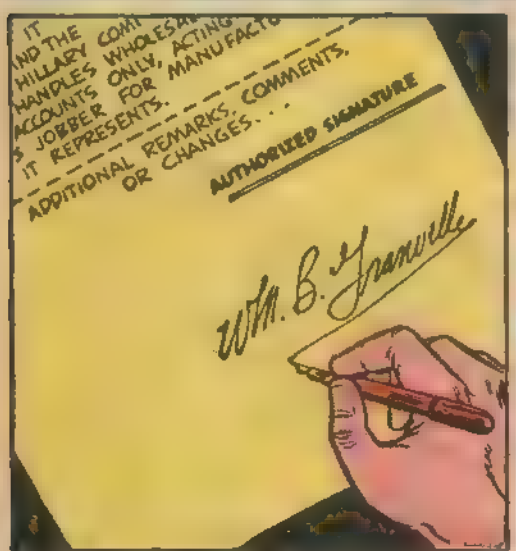
"IN THE HALF HOUR THAT FOLLOWED, I SAW THAT BIFF WAS SWITCHING MIS-SPOTTED DICE IN AND OUT OF THE GAME... THE WAY HE HELD HIS MONEY WAS THE GIVE-AWAY!"
"BUT IT WAS EQUALLY OBVIOUS THAT CHUB WAS DOING ALL THE ROLLING WITH THE PHONIES, THEREBY DIVERTING SUSPICION FROM THE ACTUAL SWITCHER!"
HERE'S YOUR DICE AND I'M BETTING FIVE BUCKS AGAINST YOUR NEXT ROLL!
TEN'S MY POINT AND I JUST MADE IT!
GEE, ARE YOU LUCKY!
"IT LOOKED LIKE A HARD NUT TO CRACK UNTIL AN IDEA FLASHED TO ME! I WIG-WAGGED A PRIVATE COP TO GRAB BIFF CADY..."
HEY... WHAT'S THE IDEA? I'M NOT PULLING ANYTHING.
WE JUST WANT YOU OUT OF CIRCULATION, THAT'S ALL.
"CHUB LANG WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF A WINNING RUN AND DIDN'T NOTICE THAT BIFF HAD LEFT, UNTIL HE DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO SWITCH THE FAIR DICE BACK..."
COME ON, GUY! RATTLE THEM BONES!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE FELLOW WHO WAS BETTING AGAINST YOU. HE QUIT I GUESS HE WENT BROKE!
ANOTHER TEN! AND IT ALWAYS COMES UP TWO FIVES.
DON'T YOU EVER ROLL ODD NUMBERS?
SURE, HE ROLLS ALL ODDS, BUT THEY ALWAYS ADD UP EVEN
BUT HE NEVER DOES SEVEN OUT!

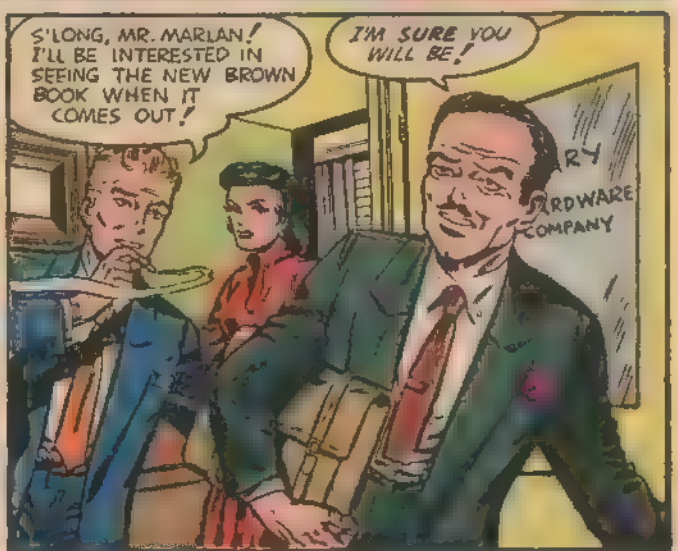
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

"CHUB HELD THE WINNING DICE, ALL RIGHT... SURE WINNERS... BUT THAT WAS JUST THE TROUBLE! HE COULDN'T GET RID OF THEM"
HERE, YOU ROLL 'EM. MY ARM'S GETTING WEAK...
A GUY BUSTING A WINNING STREAK BY PASSING ALONG THE DICE? THAT DON'T MAKE SENSE. LET ME SEE THOSE CUBES!
ALL ODD NUMBERS ON BOTH DICE! THEY HAD TO TOTAL EVEN! NO WONDER HE COULDN'T SEVEN!
HOLD IT, CHUB. YOU AREN'T GOING ANY-WHERE. NOT YET.
I DON'T KNOW HOW I GOT THEM!
HAVING THEM IS BAD ENOUGH!
WAIT! THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A SQUARE PAIR OF DICE IN THE GAME ORIGINALLY. WHO HAS THOSE
"I PUT THAT QUESTION JUST FOR THE REACTION. NATURALLY, THEY ALL TURNED THEIR POCKETS INSIDE OUT. THEN THEY REMEMBERED BIFF CADY!"
HEY... WE WANT YOU!
LET ME OUT OF HERE. YOU'VE GOT NOTHING ON ME ANYWAY!
NOTHING EXCEPT THESE! THE STRAIGHT DICE THAT YOU SWIPED FROM THE GAME WHEN YOU RANG IN THE PHONIES!
LATER...
THANKS, RADNER! WE FIRED THOSE TWO GYP ARTISTS AND THE CRAP GAMES HAVE DROPPED OFF NINETY PERCENT.
I'M STILL WONDERING WHO WAS MORE SURPRISED, CHUB LANG, WHEN HE COULDN'T LOSE...
...OR BIFF CADY, WHO WAS PROVEN CROOKED BECAUSE HE HAD A STRAIGHT PAIR OF DICE!
THE END

The PHONEY Directory RACKET


THIS SWINDLER'S SAGA BEGAN WHEN LANNY MARLAN, FRONT MAN FOR THE "BROWN BOOK" FRAUD, CALLED ON BILL GRANVILLE, PROMOTION MANAGER FOR THE HILLARY HARDWARE COMPANY... JUST ANOTHER SUCKER ON A THOUSAND NAME LIST!"
... AND THE BROWN BOOK IS THE PROVEN COMMERCIAL DIRECTORY, MR. GRANVILLE! BUT SINCE IT'S NEW IN THIS TERRITORY, WE ARE GIVING YOU A SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY LISTING AT ABSOLUTELY NO CHARGE! ALL WE WANT YOU TO DO IS APPROVE THE STATEMENT WE HAVE PREPARED FOR THE HILLARY HARDWARE COMPANY, BY SIGNING THIS LISTING SHEET!
LOOKS GOOD TO ME! I CAN'T LOSE BY SIGNING IT, CAN I, MYRTLE?
I DON'T SEE HOW!
JOHN BELFI





RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

BACK AT THE OFFICE, LANNY MARLAN REPORTED TO HIS PARTNER, DUKE PELLEY...
A DOZEN MORE LISTINGS, DUKE! WE'RE SET TO GO!
I'LL SAY. BRING THEM IN THE OTHER ROOM AND START THE PRESS WHILE I CLIP THE REST.
BROWN BOOK COMMERCIAL DIRECTORY
THEY'RE COMING THROUGH PERFECT, LANNY!
GOOD. WE'LL TYPE IN THE COMPANY NAMES LATER.
WON'T THESE FELLOWS BE SURPRISED WHEN THEY FIND OUT THEY'VE BOUGHT AD SPACE!
ADVERTISING CONTRACT
I, THE UNDERSIGNED, APPLY FOR A HALF PAGE AD IN THE BROWN BOX DIRECTORY FOR HILLARY HARDWARE CO. AT THE AGREED PRICE OF $150.00 PAYABLE ON PUBLICATION...
Wm. Hillary
ONE MONTH LATER, A CHEAP, PADDED DIRECTORY WAS READY AND IT WAS DUKE'S TURN TO MAKE THE ROUNDS OF THE "CLIENTS" WHO HAD BOUGHT AD SPACE IN THE NEW BOOK!
HILLARY HARDWARE CO.
THERE'S YOUR HALF-PAGE AD, MR. HILLARY, WITH THE CONTRACT SIGNED...
SEND GRANVILLE IN HERE!
BUT I DIDN'T ORDER THE AD IN THIS BOOK! I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS MAN BEFORE! I ONLY SIGNED A QUESTIONAIRE SHEET SOME TIME AGO...
SO YOU SIGNED SOMETHING! THAT SETTLES IT, GRANVILLE. WE'LL PAY THE $150. AND YOU'RE FIRED.
BROWN BOOK
LATER...
BUT YOU ONLY SIGNED A PRINTED QUESTION FORM! IF OLD HILLARY WON'T BELIEVE IT, MAYBE THE POLICE WILL! WE'RE GOING TO SEE THEM!
ALL RIGHT, MYRTLE, IF YOU INSIST. BUT I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE FIRED TOO!
2

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

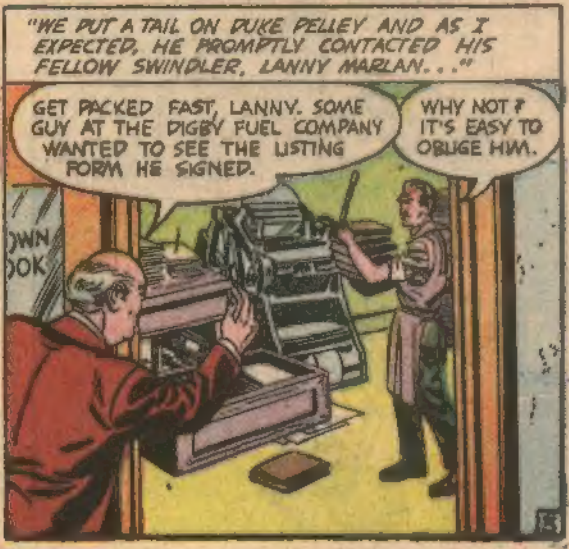
"WHEN GRANVILLE AND MYRTLE CAME TO MY OFFICE AND TOLD THEIR STORY, I RECOGNIZED THE SYMPTOMS."
THE DIRECTORY SWINDLE IS AN OLD GAME, BUT NEW IN THIS TERRITORY. IF WE KNEW OTHER FIRMS THAT HAVE BEEN VICTIMIZED WE STILL MIGHT SMASH IT!
YOU SAW THOSE ADS IN THE NEW BROWN BOOK, BILL! WHOSE WERE THEY?

WELL, THERE WERE NUWAY FURS, THE MID-WEST GAS COMPANY, DIXIE MILLS...
LOOK UP THE NUMBERS AND I'LL PHONE THEM! KEEP REMEMBERING NAMES, GRANVILLE!

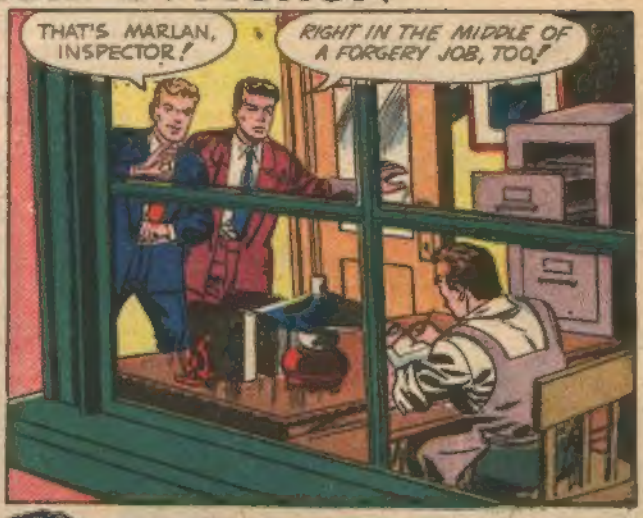
HE'S CALLED A DOZEN FIRMS ALREADY... AND IN EVERY CASE THOSE RATS HAVE BEEN THERE AND COLLECTED...
WAIT, MYRTLE!
THEY HAVEN'T SHOWN UP AT YOUR OFFICE YET? IF THEY DO, HOLD THEIR MAN UNTIL I GET THERE!

"OUR TARGET WAS THE DIGBY FUEL COMPANY. WHEN I ARRIVED THERE, I ARRANGED TO POSE AS A MEMBER OF THE FIRM... SOON, DUKE PELLEY SHOWED UP. HE WAS MAKING THE ROUNDS FAST...
THERE'S YOUR AD, MR. DIGBY AND HERE IS THE CONTRACT, ALL SIGNED.
VERY GOOD. WE'LL PAY..
ONE MOMENT, MR. DIGBY!
ALVIN DIGBY

I'M NOT QUESTIONING THE AD, MR. PELLEY. WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS WHO AUTHORIZED THIS LISTING. YOU MUST HAVE SOMEBODY'S OKAY FOR IT!
WHY, YES... OF COURSE. I'LL CHECK AND LET YOU KNOW.


"WE PUT A TAIL ON DUKE PELLEY AND AS I EXPECTED, HE PROMPTLY CONTACTED HIS FELLOW SWINDLER, LANNY MARLAN..."
GET PACKED FAST, LANNY. SOME GUY AT THE DIGBY FUEL COMPANY WANTED TO SEE THE LISTING FORM HE SIGNED.
WHY NOT? IT'S EASY TO OBLIGE HIM.

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

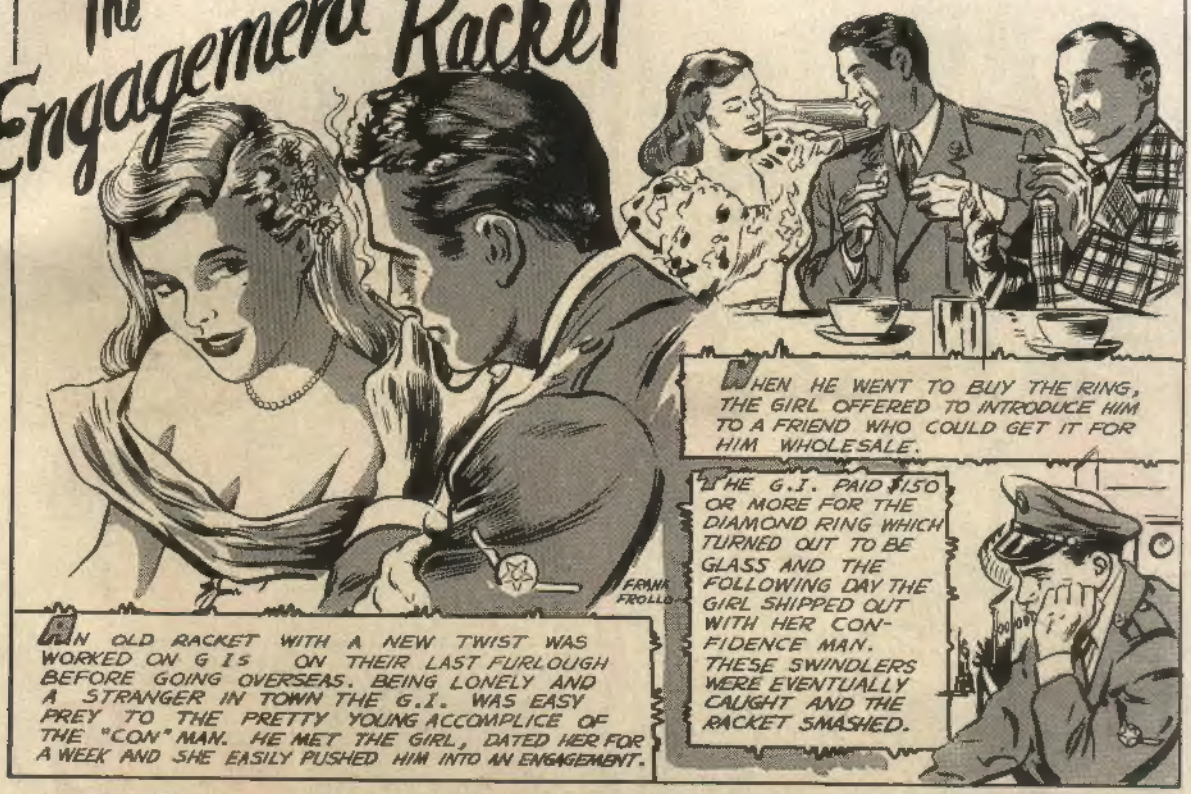


"BILL'S FLYING TACKLE WASN'T NEEDED, FOR I ALREADY HAD THE PLACE SURROUNDED. WE BAGGED PELLEY ALONG WITH MARLAN AND SHIPPED THEM BOTH TO HEADQUARTERS!

THESE APPLICATION SHEETS CLINCH THE CASE. WE CAN PROVE THAT THE SIGNED PORTIONS WERE CLIPPED FROM THEM.
THE ONE I SIGNED IS HERE, MYRTLE!
OH, HOW WONDERFUL!

THAT MEANS YOU CAN GET YOUR JOB BACK WITH MR. HILARY!
WORK FOR THAT OLD FOSSIL? NOT A CHANCE. I'LL PHONE ALL THE FIRMS THAT FELL FOR THE DIRECTORY SWINDLE AND TELL THEM I HELPED TO CRACK IT. I'LL HAVE A DOZEN BETTER JOBS OFFERED TO ME!
THE END

the Engagement Racket



AN OLD RACKET WITH A NEW TWIST WAS WORKED ON G Is ON THEIR LAST FURLOUGH BEFORE GOING OVERSEAS. BEING LONELY AND A STRANGER IN TOWN THE G.I. WAS EASY PREY TO THE PRETTY YOUNG ACCOMPLICE OF THE "CON" MAN. HE MET THE GIRL, DATED HER FOR A WEEK AND SHE EASILY PUSHED HIM INTO AN ENGAGEMENT.

WHEN HE WENT TO BUY THE RING, THE GIRL OFFERED TO INTRODUCE HIM TO A FRIEND WHO COULD GET IT FOR HIM WHOLESALE.

THE G.I. PAID $150 OR MORE FOR THE DIAMOND RING WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE GLASS AND THE FOLLOWING DAY THE GIRL SHIPPED OUT WITH HER CONFIDENCE MAN. THESE SWINDLERS WERE EVENTUALLY CAUGHT AND THE RACKET SMASHED.

EVERY ROMANCE HAS PITFALLS. AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT, HEARTBREAK. SAVE YOURSELF LOTS OF TRAGEDY. DON'T BE A FAUX PAS. FOR winning strategy, read **HOW TO GET ALONG WITH GIRLS** or **HOW TO GET ALONG WITH BOYS.** Put psychology to work- no more clumsy mistakes for you with these amazing handbooks!

ONLY 98¢ each

IT'S EASY TO WIN SOMEONE When You Know How!

READ FOR YOURSELF

How To Interest Someone in You . . . Get Dates . . . Win His or Her Love . . . Become the "One and Only" . . . "Make up" After a Quarrel . . . Express Your Love . . . Hold Your Sweetheart . . . Be a Personality . . . Improve Your Conversation, Looks, Manners . . . Overcome Inferiority . . . and many more topics.

10-DAY TRIAL OFFER

FREE 10 days' trial if you mail coupon now. Get your copy in plain wrapper by return mail. Money back if not delighted.

MAIL COUPON TODAY!!!

PLAZA BOOK CO., Dept. C365
109 Broad St., New York 4, N. Y.

Send the book checked below. I'll pay postman 98c plus postage. If not delighted, I may return it in 10 days for refund.

☐ How To Get Along With Girls
☐ How To Get Along With Boys

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZONE ____ STATE _____

☐ Check here if you enclose 98c and we pay postage. Same refund offer holds.

PLAZA BOOK CO., 109 Broad St., N.Y.C.4

An Amazing Invention—"Magic Art Reproducer"

DRAW The First Day

NO LESSONS! NO TALENT!

You Can Draw Your Family, Friends, Anything From REAL LIFE— Like An Artist...Even if You CAN'T DRAW A Straight Line!

Anyone can Draw With This Amazing New Invention— Instantly!

Complete for only

$1.98

Also Copy Any Picture — Can Reduce or Enlarge Any Picture! Yes, anyone from 5 to 80 can draw or sketch or paint anything now... the very first time you use the "Magic Art Reproducer" like a professional artist — no matter how "hopeless" you think you are! It automatically reproduces anything you want to draw on any sheet or paper. Then easily and quickly follow the lines of the "picture image" with your pencil... and you have an accurate original drawing that anyone would think an artist had done. Also makes drawing larger or smaller as you wish. Anyone can use it on any desk, table, board, etc. — indoors or outdoors! No other lessons or practice or talent needed!

Have fun! Be popular! Everyone will ask you to draw them. You'll be in demand! After a short time, you may find you can draw well without the "Magic Art Reproducer" because you have developed a "knack" and feeling artists have — which may lead to a good paying art career.

ALSO EXCELLENT FOR EVERY OTHER TYPE OF DRAWING!

- Human Figures

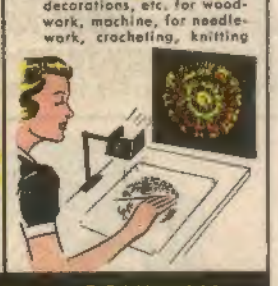
- Copy all cartoons, comics

- Outdoor Scenes, landscapes, buildings

- Copy photos, other pictures, portraits, etc.

- Still life, vases, bowls of fruit, lamps, furniture, all objects

- Copy designs, blueprints, decorations, etc. for woodwork, machine, for needlework, crocheting, knitting



FREE! "Simple Secrets of Art Tricks of the Trade"

This valuable illustrated guide is yours FREE with order of "Magic Art Reproducer." Easy ABC art tricks that anyone can follow on different techniques, effects, proportions, perspectives, shading, color, animated cartoons, human figures to use with "Magic Art Reproducer" for added touches to your drawings.

SEND NO MONEY! Free 10-Day Trial!

Just send name and address. Pay postman on delivery $1.98 plus postage. Or send only $1.98 with order and we pay postage. You must be convinced that you can draw anything like an artist, or return merchandise after 10-day trial and your money will be refunded.

NORTON PRODUCTS, Dept. CHR5
296 Broadway, New York 7, N. Y.

FREE 10-DAY TRIAL COUPON!

NORTON PRODUCTS, Dept. CHR5
296 Broadway, New York 7, N. Y.

Rush my "Magic Art Reproducer" plus FREE illustrated guide *Simple Secrets of Art Tricks of the Trade.* I will pay postman on delivery only $1.98 plus postage. I must be convinced that I can draw anything like an artist, or I can return merchandise after 10-day trial and get my money back.

Name.....

Address.....

City & Zone..... State.....

☐ Check here if you wish to save postage by sending only $1.98 with coupon. Same Money Back Guarantee!